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NEW YORK GIANTS

Fury gatecrashes Wilder's after-party to stoke heavyweight grudge

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BOXING NEWS

HAYE MARKET

After bludgeoning hapless de Mori, who's next in line?

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- Our view on the comeback that everyone is talking about

Plus
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We talk to **Freddie Roach** about the Filipino's return

+
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January 21, 2016

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David Haye shows he can still punch, against Mark de Mori

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Photos: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE & NAOKI FUKUDA



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BOXING NEWS



Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



LET IT BEGIN:
Haye's next steps
are crucial



Cover photography
ACTION IMAGES/
ANDREW COULDRIDGE &
STEPHANIE TRAPP/SHOWTIME

THE STAGE IS SET

The heavyweight division is big business again... now we need the fights to complement the intrigue



Matt Christie

@MattCBboxingNews

Editor

THE unwritten rule of high-profile boxing comebacks is you're allowed one Mark de Mori. And it must be the first contest that follows the layoff. So forgive David Haye his. Out of action since 2012, and entering the early stages of middle age, the British star was permitted to scour the world rankings and pluck the least threatening creature from them. And despite fears that his return might struggle for attention, we're told his bombastic display peaked at 3m viewers

on free-to-air lads channel, Dave.

If those figures are to be believed, more people watched Haye demolish de Mori than paid to see Tyson Fury bewitch Wladimir Klitschko, or Anthony Joshua and Dillian Whyte go to war at the end of last year. And higher numbers tuned into the 2016 version of Haye – on TV at least – than witnessed his previous bout, a grudge match with Dereck Chisora, three-and-a-half years ago. Perhaps those comparisons are unfair given the differing costs of the platforms, but our website figures would also confirm the public are hooked on Haye again. He said all the right things in the immediate build-up to the fight; stories about his “dark days” of injury were woven, with familiar charm, into promises to make up for past disappointment. And when battle commenced, as was widely predicted, he mugged de Mori

with eye-catching ease. What happens next is the real test of Haye's popularity, though. The fans' immediate reaction, outside the O2, on the London Underground, and on social media, was not one of universal adoration, but crucially, he's got our attention – which was surely the point of the exercise.

Several hours later, at the glitzy Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, someone else reappeared. After spending Christmas and New Year in hibernation, Tyson Fury emerged in the US, and got into the ring to harass a presumably exhausted Deontay Wilder moments after he had come through a difficult fight. The American branded Fury a “phony” while the Englishman threatened to remove his three-piece suit and fight him there and then. Suddenly, after years of little interest, the heavyweight division is an irresistible pantomime, loaded with intrigue and mischief. But there's a fine line being walked here. While it's all good fun at the moment, the heavyweights must not allow themselves to become the sporting equivalent of *The Jeremy Kyle Show*.

The stage is set. Now what must be delivered are fights to take the division beyond the realms of curiosity. Fury-Wilder is one of the most important showdowns in the whole sport, and Haye-Joshua could do even bigger domestic business than the two Carl Froch and George Groves fights combined. And then the winner fights the winner. Maybe the losers can collide too. And let's not forget Klitschko just yet.

But please, no more de Moris.

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THERE have been a few grumbles about our rankings, and they're completely understood. One source of confusion seems to be our middleweight list, where Saul Alvarez and Miguel Cotto are placed above Gennady Golovkin. This does not mean we believe Golovkin would lose to either, it simply reflects our belief that the Kazakh is yet to beat anyone of that level. Cotto beat long-time divisional leader Sergio Martinez to claim the No.1 position, and then in turn lost it to Alvarez. In the meantime, Golovkin's best wins are arguably over David Lemieux and Martin Murray. We will always reward achievement over potential, while respecting other independent rankings that may do the opposite.

Ratings are so subjective, and cause plenty of debate. And from our point of view, the last thing they are supposed to do is cause any offence.

And for what it's worth, if Golovkin was matched with Alvarez tomorrow, I'd pick the Kazakh to win, and get ready to alter the rankings accordingly after the fight.

Coming next week

● WE look ahead to a crucial step in super-middleweight contender George Groves' journey as he prepares to take on Italian fringe contender, Andrea Di Luisa, at the Copper Box Arena.

● GROVES' new trainer, Shane McGuigan, exclusively discusses a camp that also includes David Haye and Carl Frampton.

● WE'VE been granted exclusive access into the camp of light-heavyweight terror, Sergey Kovalev. We bring you our findings, and preview his rematch with Jean Pascal.

● AND we're ringside in California for Danny Garcia-Robert Guerrero, and in Bethnal Green for Ryan Walsh-Darren Traynor.

● AVAILABLE to download via iTunes and Google Play from January 26, and the print edition is in stores on January 28.



Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



HEAVIEST EVER:
Increased mass doesn't
stop Haye from ripping
de Mori

HAYE WILL KNOCK OUT JOSHUA

But it won't be David's next fight



**Shane
McGuigan**

*David Haye's
trainer*

DAVID HAYE obviously looked a lot bigger and some may think he looked slower but I think he was just loading up so much from the first bell. The anticipation of being out of the ring for three-and-a-half years and then finally getting in there in front of a packed-out crowd at the O2 Arena, he just went out there winging away. He knew he could knock out Mark de Mori and he wanted to put on a spectacular show for his fans, and also make a big statement. I think he did both.

We've been talking about this comeback for a very, very long time. He had me round his house on Christmas Eve in 2014. Even before Carl Frampton fought Chris Avalos, Haye told me he wanted to train with me and said he thought I was the guy for him. He had a few things to sort out with his shoulder and to get himself bulletproof. He went and saw the best specialist in the world and got it sorted and, honestly, it has not hindered him one bit in training. The fact he took so long out and let himself completely heal and not get impatient is a big deal.

The day after the fight I spoke to him and he said, 'I've never felt this good after a fight and a training camp, I can't thank you enough.' It was

nice to hear that because I know he put his body through hell in every training camp. He knew he could always win the fights but he was just breaking down in them. So he talks to me about what he needs. With his weight we'll just play it by ear. There are no barriers there, so why limit ourselves?

I want him to fight three times a year. Someone as big as him, he can't be on an undercard. He needs to be the main event and needs time to promote the show. It'll be interesting to see what offers we get this week, everyone wants to be involved in a David Haye fight because it brings prestige and it brings money. So we'll decide on an opponent soon, I think he'll have one more fight then he'll be back in the mix and can fight for a world title.

I think it's 100 per cent from our point of view that the Anthony Joshua fight will happen. I don't think Eddie [Hearn] will let it happen because Joshua's his big hope. He's definitely a great fighter, I just don't think they'll rush him, because they don't need to. I think he needs one or two more fights before he fights a David Haye; Eddie will say the same, Joshua will say the same and even David would admit that.

When Joshua gets to that position though, will he be ready? Will he be able to deal with the lateral movement? Can he hit a moving target? He's never hit a moving target, he's never fought somebody who's slipping and sliding. When David does that he comes back with big shots and he's quick. It's an interesting fight and I'm definitely backing my man to knock him out.



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WHAT'S HOT ON OUR WEBSITE...



THE REAL HAYE

The fighter's biographer, Elliot Worsell, examines David's return with enlightening honesty



WILDER ON FURY

The WBC heavyweight champion discusses Tyson's ring invasion, and his future



FRAMPTON-QUIGG

All the details about the undercard to one of 2016's most appealing showdowns



PACQUIAO EXPECTS

Manny arrives in Los Angeles and explains why Tim Bradley will be better in their third fight

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CAN JOSHUA HIT A MOVING TARGET? WILL HE BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE LATERAL MOVEMENT?



TWEETS

@BRONZEBOMBER

I want to thank @szpilka_artur for a great fight. You got a great heart bro. Keep on fighting... DEONTAY WILDER is generous towards the man he flattened to retain his WBC heavyweight title at the weekend.

@PAULMALIGNAGGI

And I LOVE Fury getting in the ring and jawing. The heavyweight division needs this. Can't wait for that fight to happen. Fighter-turned-analyst PAULIE MALIGNAGGI has no problem with Tyson's post-fight antics after Wilder's win in Brooklyn.

@REALFRAMPTON

I don't care who you are, but if he hits ANYBODY like that on the chin, they're going to dreamland. WBC super-bantam champ CARL FRAMPTON is impressed by David Haye, with whom he shares a trainer in Shane McGuigan.

@SAMMCNESS

Finally decided on an entrance song for Friday! Can't wait to see you all there, who have bought tickets. It's going to be a great night. Get along to the York Hall on Friday (January 22) to discover Romford super-welterweight prospect SAM MCNESS'S taste in music.

@WARRIORDODSON

So it turns out I've broken my fourth metacarpal and have to have an op. What a way to start the year. TONY DODSON pays a high price for his gruelling win over Richard Horton at the O2 Arena.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

HEAVYWEIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Photo: NAOKI FUKUDA



WELL done to America's Deontay Wilder for defeating the tough Pole Artur Szpilka with a devastating KO on Saturday (January 16). Szpilka gave Wilder plenty to think about and caught him a few times, but Deontay finally caught up with him in the ninth round.

After the fight, the entertainment hadn't finished, as unified heavyweight champion Tyson Fury entered the ring and taunted Wilder, with both men exchanging barbs. This was very exciting, and reminded me a little of some of Muhammad Ali's past antics. I hope Fury and Wilder end up facing each other sooner rather than later.

Patch Hammond, Norwich

POOR DE MORI

DAVID HAYE should apply to be a contestant on *The Apprentice*, as he would surely win the competition. He persuaded the entire audience inside the O2 Arena on Saturday (January 16), plus all the TV viewers, that he was back to face a live, possibly dangerous opponent. However, that foe, Mark de Mori, didn't even put up a challenge.

Haye is a top-class heavyweight, but despite his absence from competitive boxing for over three years, there must have been an opponent out there who could have shown more desire than de Mori.

Peter Mason, via e-mail

HAYE SHOULD RETHINK STRATEGY

CONGRATULATIONS to David Haye for his spectacular return to heavyweight boxing on Saturday (January 16).



COMING ON:
Wilder [left]
takes charge
against Szpilka

My only concern is why a two-weight world champion is seeking to challenge a relatively inexperienced boxer in Anthony Joshua. Surely Haye should be strategically moving towards an assault on a world title. Challenging a fighter that is still serving his apprenticeship is worrying. I wish Haye every success in his career, but not in this aspect.

Mike Hills, Glenwood Springs, Colorado

MIXED BAG

OVER the weekend (January 16-17), I watched three heavyweight fights. The first was the farce between David Haye and Mark de Mori. The 'action' consisted of de Mori standing against

the ropes and seemingly waiting to be knocked out by Haye.

The second fight was the vacant IBF title bout between Vyacheslav Glazkov and Charles Martin. I know the injury-enforced ending was unfortunate, but neither fighter looked to be world class.

The third fight was between WBC champion Deontay Wilder and Artur Szpilka. This was entertaining, and until the knockout, Szpilka gave a good account of himself.

In the post-fight interview, Wilder stated that he is not yet the finished article, but he would be prepared to come to the UK to face Tyson Fury in the future.

Mervyn Gee, Paignton

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE

WE ASKED...



WHAT CHANCE DOES DAVID HAYE HAVE AGAINST THE LEADING HEAVIES?



MARTIN HANCOX

He beats Deontay Wilder but loses to Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua shouldn't fight him just yet. Haye was a class act but needs to earn his shot again.

CHRIS REAL

He'll be too good for Tyson Fury but Anthony Joshua, with youth on his side, may be a bit too much for Haye.

LEA DARREN PRIOR

Haye could beat any of them right now. This is the weakest heavyweight division ever, especially the belt-holders.

WASHLEY NYAKUROMBA

If he fails to do the job in the first five rounds then Alexander Povetkin, Fury, Dereck Chisora and even Joshua would have the upper hand.



HE'S BACK:
Haye has plenty
of options
for fights



HEAD-2-HEAD

DAVID HAYE VS ANTHONY JOSHUA

Who wins this fascinating clash of former champ and rising contender?

STEVE WILKINSON

Haye. Joshua's power-punches will be hard to land on Haye and he hasn't shown much more than power up to now.

JAMES JONES

Joshua would win. Haye is very experienced, but Joshua would be too quick and would outwit Haye.

MATT COX

Whoever lands first wins. Joshua wins with his handspeed if Haye stays heavy, as Haye can't move like he needs to at his Mark de Mori weight.

CARL PRESCOTT

Haye might have been out for a while but you don't lose experience. Would have to say Haye wins, more durable and faster.

JAMES BUNYARD

Joshua is pound-for-pound the better fighter. Haye hasn't impressed me ever since fighting Klitschko.

BRETT VIVIAN

Haye is too fast and skilled, his head movement is too good for Joshua to catch him. Haye by eighth-10th round stoppage.

FATA OSY SANGYUM

Joshua will knock out David. Haye is fast but Joshua is too powerful.

THE PANEL

HOW FAR CAN DAVID HAYE GO IN HIS COMEBACK?



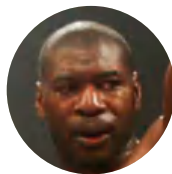
Kevin Campion

Goodwin Head of Boxing
I think he will be heavyweight champion again. He has the ability, the athleticism and the power to be right in the mix. The heavyweight division just got even more exciting now Haye is back.



David Price

Heavyweight contender
He can go very far, not based on last weekend but on his ability and explosiveness. The way the land lies at the minute there is a good opening for him providing his body holds up.



Carl Thompson

Former Haye conqueror
Eyeing up all the heavweights I think he could go far and regain a heavyweight title. I think Charles Martin would be ideal, a little tricky perhaps as he's a southpaw but he might be the one to go for.



Kieran Mulvaney

BN US reporter
When I watched Anthony Joshua-Dillian Whyte, I thought to myself, 'Haye's the kind of guy that would give Joshua trouble, with his fast hands.' Haye's got talent so at the very least he can get a shot at Joshua.

WHAT SHOULD DEONTAY WILDER DO NEXT?

Kevin Campion

Goodwin Head of Boxing
There are some big fights out there for him. Povetkin is the fight most people have spoken about. But I think that's a fight he would lose. The Tyson Fury fight is the fight people want to see but I also see Fury winning.

David Price

Heavyweight contender
I wouldn't fight Povetkin next if I was him. He should fight Charles Martin, unify the titles and make as much money as he can while he's got the title because I think they will all change hands over the next couple of years.

Carl Thompson

Former Haye conqueror
It's a risky fight versus Alexander Povetkin, but if I was him I would defend against the No. 1 contender because I don't believe in running and it would seem like running if he fought anyone else. Stand up and fight, you're the champion.

Kieran Mulvaney

BN US reporter
Offensively he's good but he seems to struggle when guys are throwing punches at him. I don't know what he should do but I think he'll avoid his mandatory somehow, take another fight or two then try for a fight with Fury.

**'HE SHOULD FIGHT MARTIN, UNIFY
AND MAKE AS MUCH AS HE CAN'**

10 COUNT

BRITISH HEAVIES

Daniel Herbert lists the UK's greatest ever big men

1. LENNOX LEWIS

The big Londoner won 15 world title fights across two reigns as global king, licking Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson and Vitali Klitschko among others.

2. TYSON FURY

Love him or loathe him, Morecambe's fighting gypsy dethroned a long-reigning unified champion in his own backyard in Wladimir Klitschko.

3. HENRY COOPER

British champion for a record 10 years and five months (1959-69), Henry lost his only world title bid to Muhammad Ali on one of his frequent cuts.

4. DAVID HAYE

The 'Hayemaker' peaked at cruiserweight, but in the supreme division he wrestled the WBA belt from man mountain Nikolai Valuev.

5. FRANK BRUNO

Big hitter improved his stamina to become world champ (WBC version) at the third attempt, holding it for six months (1995-96).

6. BOB FITZSIMMONS

Held the world title from 1897-99 even though he weighed only what would now be super-middleweight. Tough and a hurtful hitter despite his wiry build.

7. TOMMY FARR

Renowned chiefly for taking a peak Joe Louis the distance in 1937, this Welshman was a brainy fighter who lacked a hard dig.

8. JOE BUGNER

Built superbly but without a devastating punch, Joe nevertheless went the distance with Muhammad Ali (twice) and Joe Frazier at his peak.

9. BRUCE WOODCOCK

Like so many British heavies, this Yorkshireman fell short at world level, but he was good enough to round up national, Empire and European crowns in the late 1940s.

10. DON COCKELL

This Battersea man is best known for his valiant ninth-round 1955 world title loss to Rocky Marciano, but before that he had notched some good wins in the USA.

THE WEEK

What's been going
on in the boxing world
over the last seven days

 TRENDING #HAYEDAY / #WILDERSZPILKA / #FURYWILDER / #FRAMPTONQUIGG

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/PETER CZIBORRA



SUBSTITUTE:
Butler [pictured]
will face Corcoran
next month

BUTLER STEPS IN

WEDNESDAY January 13, 2016

THE injury woes of **Joe Selkirk** continue, as he's forced out of his February 6 10-round super-welterweight bout with **Gary Corcoran** at Dublin's National Stadium. The Liverpoolian, 28, will be replaced by perennial domestic contender, **Danny Butler**.

A former English middleweight champion, Butler, also 28, fancies his chances of upsetting the unbeaten Corcoran.

"I've watched a bit of Gary and I know he's a strong, come-forward type of fighter but that doesn't faze me at all, I'm happy to stand and trade with him," says Bristol's Butler,

who lost a 2009 bid for the then-vacant 160lb British title against Darren Barker.

"It doesn't bother me fighting away from home. I've got a job to do and it doesn't matter where it is."

Corcoran, meanwhile, is not concerned about the change of opponent.

"I'm still 100 per cent focused on fight night. We've been sparring all around the country, lately I've been sparring **Bradley Skeete** and **Tommy Langford**."

Skeete, meanwhile, will challenge British and Commonwealth welterweight champion **Sam Eggington** on March 5 at Birmingham's Genting Arena. **Kal** and **Gamal Yafai** will also appear.

BLACKWELL GETS JNR

THURSDAY January 14, 2016

THE highlight of the latest British Boxing Board of Control Circulars, is confirmation that Hennessy Sports have won the purse bids to host **Nick Blackwell's** mandated defence of his British middleweight title, against **Chris Eubank Jnr**, on March 5, at Glow in Kent's Bluewater.

Mick Hennessy, who represents the champion and has worked with Eubank in the past, works closely with terrestrial platform, Channel 5.

If the fight goes ahead – it is yet to be confirmed by Team Eubank –

it will be Blackwell's third defence since he claimed the vacant title via thrilling win over **John Ryder** in May 2015, and victory over Eubank will mean he keeps the Lonsdale Belt.

Blackwell has exchanged punches with Eubank in the past, and fancies his chances.

"I've sparred Eubank quite a few times," Blackwell tells *Boxing News*. "I felt he wasn't very strong physically but he was very sharp and snappy and he's improved since."

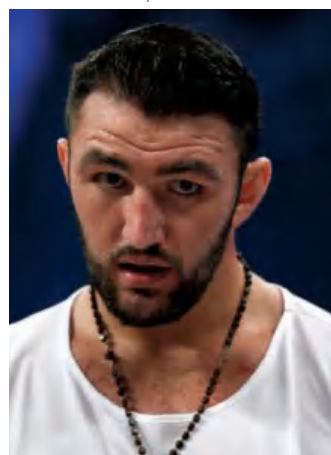
"I definitely want the British title... I never thought I'd win it, so imagine owning one."

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW BOYERS



KNOWN QUANTITY:
Blackwell meets a man
he has sparred before

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



FAMILY AFFAIR: Hughie [pictured] hopes that he and cousin Tyson can claim all the major belts between them

FURY WANTS TO FIGHT JOSHUA

FRIDAY January 15, 2016

HUGHIE FURY, cousin of world heavyweight champion **Tyson Fury**, tells *Boxing News* he would welcome a domestic showdown with British champion, **Anthony Joshua**, 15-0 (15).

"I got offered the fight when he had around five fights, and I'd had about 10," claims the 21-year-old. "My dad [trainer Peter] said, 'We'll take it', and we heard nothing from him. I'd take it tomorrow if he asked for it but I can't see them going this route. He's human and

he can get hurt at the end of the day. If they put him in now with good opposition he's going to come undone."

Joshua – ranked a generous No. 2 by the WBC (Hughie is No. 30) – is scheduled to return to action on April 9, whereas Hughie looks like competing in March.

"I want to get my rankings up over the next few fights," Fury, 18-0 (10), continues. "I just want a good opponent, I'd face whoever will take it. I know I put the hard work and dedication in and I'm not really bothered about the British title;

if it comes, it comes. My focus is on world titles. By the end of this year, hopefully everything goes to plan and I get up in the rankings for all the major governing bodies. I want to have good fights this year."

Tyson was stripped of the IBF title just days after taking it from **Wladimir Klitschko** last year, and Hughie believes that could be a blessing in disguise.

"It's better for me so I can clear them up hopefully. I don't fight family, me and Tyson will never fight each other, but hopefully we get all the titles between us."

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

‘I CAN CONFIRM, THERE WAS NO ALTERCATION BETWEEN [TYSON] FURY AND MYSELF. I ADMIRE THE BIG MAN’

Carl Froch chuckles at the suggestion he was close to brawling with the world heavyweight champion

Photo: STACEY VERBEEK



WINNING AGAIN: Korobov [right] outpoints Ovando

DALLAS ACTION

SATURDAY January 16, 2016

AT The Bomb Factory in Dallas, Texas, lightweight prospect **Erick De Leon** takes just 2-18 to flatten **Fidel Navarrette**. The 23-year-old, born in Mexico but a US citizen since 2011, was a three-time National Golden Gloves Champion, and once worked with Emanuel Steward out of the Kronk Gym.

The southpaw cracked Navarrette to the canvas with a savage right hook. The American regained his footing but was deemed in no condition to continue by referee Laurence Cole. De Leon is now 12-0 (6).

Topping the bill, in another eight-rounder, is former WBO middleweight title challenger, **Matt Korobov**, who wins a lopsided verdict (three scores of 80-71) over Mexican **Josue Ovando**. The victory is Korobov's first since his only loss – a December 2014 defeat to **Andy Lee**.

The 33-year-old Russian, who represented his nation at the 2008 Olympics, sees his record improve to 25-1 (14).

SHOWTIME FOR FRAMPTON-QUIGG

US broadcasting giants Showtime confirm they will televise the February 27 super-bantamweight humdinger between **Carl Frampton** and **Scott Quigg**. They will follow that Manchester bout with coverage from Anaheim, California of the scrap between **Leo Santa Cruz** and **Kiko Martinez**.

ALI'S CAMP FOR SALE

SUNDAY January 17, 2016

MUHAMMAD ALI turns 74, and his famous Deer Lake training camp, where he prepared for the likes of Joe Frazier and George Foreman in the 1970s, is up for sale and can be yours for \$495,000.

The five-acre site, in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, is now a boxing fan's dream bed-and-breakfast destination. Sylvester Stallone, Howard Cosell, Sammy Davis Jr and Frank Sinatra have all stayed there.

Bought from Ali himself in 1997 – 16 years after the fighter last used it as a training camp for his final bout against Trevor Berbick – George Dillman refurbished the worn-out site, but key reminders of Ali's time there remain: the house Ali lived in; his gym; kitchen hall; chalet and horse stable; and 10 cabins – which homed Ali's team and sparring partners – are all there atop a secluded mountain.

Dotted among the 18 buildings are 18 giant boulders, on which names of great boxers, like Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano, are painted. Further investigation will uncover hooks that supported his punching bags, and hand-written notes he compiled while training like: "Up at 4.45am (GOOD!), weight before running 228, ran four miles, weight after 226..."

All memorabilia, including pictures of Ali, are incorporated in the price and serious interested parties should contact Kim Raifsnider on 001-610-223-7548.

TYSON'S FAN CLUB

MONDAY January 18, 2016

TALES of an altercation between Carl Froch and **Tyson Fury**, alleged to have taken place in New York over the weekend, start to gather pace on the weird and wonderful world of social media.

Froch, now working as an analyst for Sky Sports, was ringside in Brooklyn covering the **Deontay Wilder-Artur Szpilka** fight when Fury invaded the ring after the bout. The story goes that the pair squared up, security intervened, and Froch fled from the scene in fear.

"I heard that myself," Froch laughs when *Boxing News* ask him about the incident two days later. "Maybe he [Fury] had an argument with a tall, dark, handsome guy and people thought it was me. So, I can confirm, there was no altercation between Fury and myself; I admire the big man."

Another of Tyson's admirers is the heavyweight champion's two-time victim, **Dereck Chisora**. Also on the Wilder-Szpilka bill was the farcical encounter between **Charles Martin** and **Vyacheslav Glazkov**, that saw Martin crowned the new IBF champion, and then declare he could beat Fury.

"I don't think you could beat Tyson Fury," Chisora tells Martin. "The guy is just too big." The Londoner then calls out the new champion, and reflects: "We're like a bunch of hyenas, we're here to get the scraps."

Photo: STEPHANIE TRAPP/SHOWTIME



FUTURE FIGHT? Chisora is eager to face Martin [left], who defeated Glazkov for the IBF championship

LESSONS BANKED

TUESDAY January 19, 2016

JOHN RYDER is well aware that his January 30 opponent, **Sergey Khomitsky**, is a dangerman. The Islington middleweight believes that respect or, as he calls it, "fear factor" will bring out the best in him when they clash at the Copper Box in Stratford, London.

Khomitsky, now 41, was last spotted on UK shores blitzing **Adam Etches** in March 2015, and in recent years, has also beaten **Frank Buglioni** and Jamie Moore in Britain, and held **Nick Blackwell** to a draw in Monaco.

"There's a fear factor for me in this fight, 100 per cent," says Ryder. It will be his second bout since losing a memorable battle with Blackwell last May. "I'm doing things majorly differently to how I've approached fights before and that element of fear is in me as I know what Khomitsky is capable of."

"Take no notice of his age, the last thing to go in a fighter is their power, he'll have that until the end, so I know that this is a dangerous fight."

Ryder was once considered one of the brightest prospects in Britain, but the loss to Blackwell – that came two years after a tight defeat to **Billy Joe Saunders** – rocked his reputation.

"My diet and training has changed a lot since losing to Blackwell," Ryder reveals. "The most important thing in a loss is to learn from it. I don't want to lose any more fights."

IN BRIEF

ALL-NEW LEWIS

LEWIS PETTITT returns this Friday (January 22) four months after his shock 11th-round defeat to **Bobby Jenkinson** in a vacant Commonwealth super-bantamweight title fight.

"I did a lot of things wrong that night," the Erith (Kent) boxer tells *Boxing News*. "I was winning comfortably, even though it was my worst performance. But it just didn't pan out the way I wanted."

Lewis admits his weight preparation was all wrong. "In the summer I went on holiday and came back at 11st [154lbs], which was far too big. Getting down to super-bantam [122lbs] was a struggle."

"But I've employed a nutritionist and feel a different fighter now. I'm eating five times a day instead of one meal a day. The nutritionist, she's got me eating fish and veg, as much as I want. And I'm taking on five times as much fluid now, so I'm well-hydrated."

Tomorrow's fight at Bethnal Green's York Hall is an eight-rounder at 126lbs against Poland's **Krzysztof Rogowski**, about whom Lewis knows a bit: "I saw him on Sky against **Liam Hanrahan** [in September 2014 in Manchester]. He went down but got up to knock out Hanrahan, so he's dangerous."

DANIEL HERBERT

SHAYNE'S FUMING

SHAYNE SINGLETON was left fuming after the Colne man didn't get to appear on the weekend's big O2 bill. Opponent **John O'Donnell** withdrew injured three days beforehand from their British welterweight title eliminator and Singleton was dropped from the card.

Singleton's manager Steve Wood tweeted that he hoped his boxer's fans "who paid for travels, hotels and tickets from O2 direct (boxers not allowed tickets) get their hard-earned monies back."

David Haye's company Hayemaker Promotions staged the show, but providing the undercard was Goodwin Boxing, who said they "had no comment to make on the matter."

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JED LEICESTER



AMBITIOUS:
Matthews is still
aiming for a shot at
the British title

'I'VE GOT A LOT OF FAITH'

Daniel Herbert
talks to a
philosophical
fighter

HERTFORDSHIRE middleweight **Elliott Matthews** is looking forward to getting back into the ring after a cut eye in sparring forced him out of a British title shot late last year.

Matthews boxes a six-rounder on a February 27 show promoted by his manager Mickey Helliet at York Hall, where he hasn't boxed for 10 years, since his days as a star amateur with Repton.

Elliott was all set to challenge British 160lbs king **Nick Blackwell** on

a Channel Five-televvised show in November, only to get cut in his last sparring session just eight days before.

The wound, on his right eye, needed four stitches.

"It was a nuisance," recalls Rickmansworth's Matthews in a conversation with *Boxing News*. "The British title shot was a great opportunity for me and to get cut in sparring was just one of those things. They happen for a reason."

Jack Arnfield from Blackpool took Matthews' place and put up a solid performance before going down on

points. Some boxers might have been too frustrated to tune in, but not Elliott.

"I watched the fight on television," he says. "Blackwell's good but not unbeatable, and I think I could have won the fight. I'm hoping to get the chance again this year and a direct British title shot would be ideal. I've made a lot of efforts to get into this position."

In March Blackwell is scheduled to defend against **Chris Eubank Jr** in an ordered defence, for which purse bids

were won by Mick Hennessy. Elliott fancies the title to change hands – "on points or maybe a late stoppage" – but is happy to fight either man.

"I've got a lot of

faith in myself," adds Matthews, who is 34 but turned pro aged 30. "I train full-time and have just moved into a place 10 minutes from the Elite gym in Limehouse, where Barry Smith is my trainer."

"I'm just getting back into sparring now. I work with a couple of Turkish guys, they're strong. And I spar a mix of weights, including light-heavies and super-lightweights, to work on different things. It's going well."

'EUBANK CAN BEAT BLACKWELL ON POINTS OR MAYBE A LATE STOPPAGE'

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PREPARING:
Roach [centre] is
going to get Pacquiao
[left] ready for his
fight with Bradley



'I KNOW MANNY STILL HAS A LOT OF FIGHT LEFT IN HIM'

Freddie Roach speaks to George Gigney
about Pacquiao's future



I was recently confirmed that Manny Pacquiao will fight WBO welterweight champion Tim Bradley for a third time on April 9, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Bradley took a highly controversial decision over Pacquiao in 2012 before Manny gained revenge in 2014.

Amir Khan and Terence Crawford were

also considered as potential opponents this time around, and the announcement of Pacquiao-Bradley III has so far been met with mostly derision from fans. The Filipino insists it will be his final fight while his trainer, Freddie Roach, believes his charge will stick around for a lucrative rematch against Floyd Mayweather, who defeated him last May.

How is Manny doing, is the right shoulder he injured in training for Mayweather – then had surgery on – fully healed now?

He's doing very well, he'll do a few weeks training in the Philippines then he'll come down to my gym. He seems motivated for the fight, I talked to him on the phone and I'm happy he's getting back in the ring. Bradley's always been a tough guy, he's got a new trainer [Teddy Atlas] who's quite the story-teller. We'll see what happens. His shoulder is fine now, he's playing basketball and the surgery went well and he says he feels fine.

Why did Manny choose to go with a third fight against Bradley?

Well the offer was made from Top Rank, there were a couple of other names out there – we kind of wanted to fight [Terence] Crawford but they don't think he's ready for Manny yet. It is 1-1 on paper [laughs]. He's a good opponent. I don't think it'll be Manny's last fight.

So can you see Manny fighting again in 2016?

Well it depends on what happens with the elections in the Philippines, if he becomes a Senator. But I can see it happening. I just know he still has a lot of fight left in him and once he gets in the gym he trains his a** off and he still has a great work ethic.

Manny's spoken about his desire to get a rematch with Mayweather; do you think that's realistic in the near future?

I don't know if Floyd will definitely come back but Manny will always want to fight him; if we didn't have that injury in the first fight we would've done a lot better. Manny's watched it over and

over and still feels he won the fight and a lot of other people feel the same way. It wasn't the most exciting fight last time around but if he's healthy and has two hands, it would be much more exciting.

What do you make of the teaming of Bradley and Teddy Atlas?

I didn't see much improvement in the last fight [Bradley's stoppage win over Brandon Rios]. He had a fat, overweight guy in front of him. I don't think we can give him [Atlas] credit yet. If Bradley does better against Manny, we can give him credit but I don't think that'll happen. I don't think being a cheerleader is the best way to train a fighter.

What about Adrien Broner?

His name also came up as an option. Broner's come to my gym, he's kind of a friend of mine somehow. I was nice to him when he first started boxing, he was a good kid back then. When he came here he was very respectful and very nice. He's not a bad kid, he was mentioned but with the struggle between [Broner's advisor, Al] Haymon and his side of boxing it's very difficult. That's really the same thing with Amir Khan [advised by Haymon and promoted by Golden Boy], he's not with the same company [as Top Rank's Pacquiao] and it's difficult to make those fights happen. I don't know why they let people have monopolies on the fight game because the best should fight the best, that's the only way boxing can become the top sport in the world. It's foolish.

You're also currently training Jean Pascal. How is preparation going for his fight with Sergey Kovalev on January 30?

A lot of my focus is on Jean right now as he's fighting for the [unified light-heavyweight] title. That camp is going very well, I'm concentrating on him as much as I can. I have another fight in China on the same day so I'm sending [assistant trainers] Justin Fortune and Marvin [Somodio] to China with [Zou] Shiming [who beats unbeaten Brazilian Natan Santana Coutinho] and I'll go to Montreal to fight Kovalev. It's hard when fights turn up on the same day, Pascal wants Marvin to wrap his hands and I said, 'Well, he can't! He's in China.' Everyone wants to wait for Marvin and not me! I'm looking forward to an upset in Montreal though.



WORK ETHIC: Roach [left] insists that Pacquiao toils incredibly hard with him in the Wild Card gym

'HE STILL FEELS HE WON, A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL THE SAME'

ACTION

Reports from
the best fights
around the world

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ FAIR ★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

Reporters' star ratings for main events and undercards are based on in-ring entertainment, competitiveness and whether overall expectation was met

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



MORE THAN ENOUGH:
With de Mori
finished, Haye
prepares to celebrate

GREENWICH

JANUARY 16

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ ATMOSPHERE



Matt Christie
@MattCBoxingNews
RINGSIDE



HERE was something grossly unfair about it, but the bloodthirsty fans, present in their thousands, didn't care. Like dropping a mouse into a box of cats, the woeful Australian (Perth) **Mark de Mori** was fed to **David Haye** at a packed O2 Arena in London. It was all over in 131 seconds. A grotesque mismatch, indeed, but one

that catapults the winner – back after an absence of three-and-a-half years – into a land of opportunity.

"I'm punching harder than ever," said Haye in the thrashing's aftermath. "I don't believe any heavyweight on the planet could stand up to those shots."

Not many heavyweights would retreat to the ropes and invite Haye to knock them out like de Mori did, either. These first steps back had to be small, though, and the selection of the Aussie, somehow rated No. 10 by the WBA, was perfectly understandable. After all, Mike Tyson battered an equally

overmatched Peter McNeeley in 1995 following a layoff, but this tells us little about Haye's chances of ruling the heavyweight division. It did show, in gruesome detail, that the

British star's punching power remains after reconstructive surgery on his perennially pesky right shoulder, but how his swollen muscles, inflated like never before, cope in more rigorous tests remains unknown. Here, though, it did not matter. This was always about reminding the fans what the division had been missing in his absence, and the fans – an attendance figure of 16,000 was

TALKING POINT

DESPITE no title, three judges were used by the BBBofC to score the main event. This is nothing new for high-profile international bouts. The redundant cards belonged to Jeff Hinds, Ian John-Lewis and Marcus McDonnell.

THE VANITY PROJECT

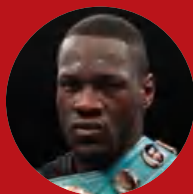
Haye delights fans and, after his layoff, looks good against the made-to-order de Mori



Dodson-Horton

Bloody battle saves undercard

PAGE 18



Wilder-Szpilka

Fury confronts Deontay in New York

PAGE 20



Martin-Glazkov

Farcical ending crowns unknown king

PAGE 22

reported – were given a stark reminder of that.

In his pomp, “Hayemaker” was fast and explosive. Now 35, Haye evidenced both qualities yet seemed a shade slower, and a little stiff in the opening minute. That could be down to a number of things – rustiness, age, increased muscle mass – but analysing this contest too deeply is pointless. What we got was blazing violence from an immensely talented fighter, one of the best of his generation, yet one in against someone sorely outclassed. Importantly for David’s future, his supporters will pay to watch what happens next, and so they should, because this comeback – whatever the motives for it – allows Haye to re-enter a division that has improved since he exited. And the Londoner’s presence, for however long it lasts, adds a new dimension. Imagine Haye squaring off against Tyson Fury, Anthony Joshua, Deontay Wilder, or even Dillian Whyte, and there are options for excitement and – vitally for Haye – bucketloads of cash.

At the O2, there was a smattering of empty seats but concerns about poor ticket sales were eased long before Haye entered the ring. For an hour before the main event, there was no boxing for fans to watch, yet they clung to their plastic cups of beer and danced to the beats booming from the DJ set which provided chief support. The razzmatazz in the air was suffocating, and the floor stickier than a seaside nightclub.

By the time Haye entered the ring, with new trainer Shane McGuigan, the crowd were at fever pitch. The ageing star

‘IT FELT LIKE THE OLD DAYS. IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING ELSE’



MR BOOMBASTIC: Haye [left] prepares to thump de Mori

surveyed his castle, inhaled the adoration, and smiled a heartfelt smile. Just for a moment, as he walked towards the ring singing along to his signature tune – *Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now* – it was like he had never been away.

“I genuinely wasn’t expecting the response I got, it was so positive,” said Bermondsey’s Haye. “It makes me want to keep on giving them these nights. I went out there and thought, ‘This is amazing.’ It felt like the old days. It really was something else. Hopefully next time the guy can stand up.”

De Mori never looked like standing up for long. Though his pre-fight ambition should not be doubted, a dipping jab to the gut quickly got his attention and, just

as Haye had predicted beforehand, any plans for victory disappeared. Haye chased him to the ropes, and each punch he threw looked, and sounded, like it might end the fight. But the favourite was wild, attempting a hook that missed before de Mori threw an overhand right that nestled into his rival’s guard. Haye was not concerned, stalked with menace, and fully loaded three more swings. One landed, one hit the Aussie’s shield, and the other missed. De Mori was soon crippled by panic. He found himself in a neutral corner. Haye was on him again. A jab, delivered far too politely, was countered with a sickening right hand. The fight, such as it was, was all but over. De Mori lurched forward, his face met a replica blast before a left hand completed the bombing.

The visitor slumped down the ropes, dazed beyond repair, and his body – frozen in shock – plonked in an undignified heap on the canvas. One arm was locked straight, the other jutted out beneath his body, and referee Bob Williams waved his own above him. Haye was delighted, and undoubtedly relieved, but briefly de Mori’s stricken condition was a cause for concern. Several minutes passed before he regained his footing – complete with oxygen mask, and a little embarrassment, on his face.

And that was that. David Haye, the master of disaster, is back.

THE VERDICT Haye does as expected, and marmalises de Mori.

RINGSIDE NOTES

● **THE** media seats were situated quite far back from the ring, behind what appeared to be a VIP section. It meant that the views of some reporters was obscured, particularly as many in front chose to stand up. There was, though, a massive screen above us showing all the action.

● **WHILE** it’s too easy to criticise the main event, the atmosphere in the O2 was incredible. Haye has certainly retained his star power, and his face upon entering the arena was one of genuine joy.

● **HAYE**, at over 227lbs, was at his heaviest ever. He looked heavy, too. This was a conscious decision, as Haye believes the injuries of the past were related to cutting weight. This time he had to “set alarms” to remind himself to eat.

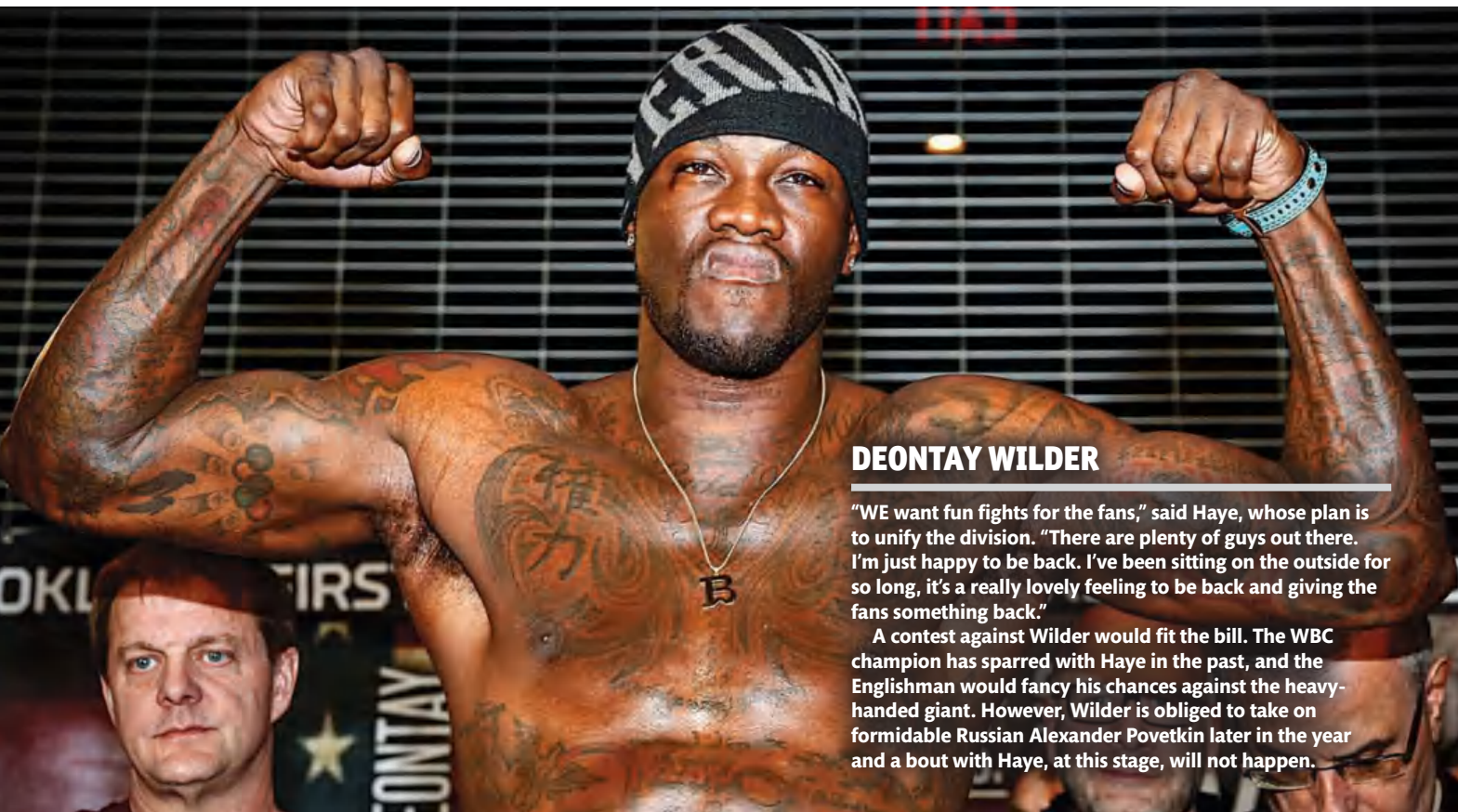
● **DAVE** report that a peak of 3m watched, with a 1.3m average.



DREAM TEAM: New trainer McGuigan [right] alongside the winner

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Photos: STEPHANIE TRAPP/SHOWTIME (2) & ACTION IMAGES/LEE SMITH (2)



DEONTAY WILDER

"WE want fun fights for the fans," said Haye, whose plan is to unify the division. "There are plenty of guys out there. I'm just happy to be back. I've been sitting on the outside for so long, it's a really lovely feeling to be back and giving the fans something back."

A contest against Wilder would fit the bill. The WBC champion has sparred with Haye in the past, and the Englishman would fancy his chances against the heavy-handed giant. However, Wilder is obliged to take on formidable Russian Alexander Povetkin later in the year and a bout with Haye, at this stage, will not happen.

Matt Christie
examines
some options
for Haye

TYSON FURY

WBA Super and WBO champion Fury [below] is unlikely to entertain the thought of fighting Haye in the near future. Haye twice pulled out of contests with Fury in the past and Tyson, left seriously out of pocket, has never really forgiven him.

"I think Tyson Fury is a good fighter, very good," said Haye. "It's a shame he doesn't want to fight me. I think we all know why, when he sees punch power like that."

However, if the champion defeats Wladimir Klitschko in their projected return, and Haye is still around, Fury will undoubtedly reconsider. For now, though, this contest is off the table.



ANTHONY JOSHUA

AS Eddie Hearn mentioned on Twitter, a Haye-Joshua showdown is big enough to sell out Wembley Stadium twice over. And money-motivated Haye would make this contest tomorrow. The bookies already make the younger man favourite, but this battle of the ages is no forgone conclusion. Haye could take Joshua to places he's never been before. For that reason, it will not happen next. But if both are still winning at the end of the summer, its appeal grows even more. Huge.

"I believe that fight can be made later on in the year," said Haye. "I'm in shape, I'm punching hard. I'm a little bit older. It'll make for a great fight."

DILLIAN WHYTE

THIS would be a logical step towards Anthony Joshua, the fight Haye seems to crave the most. Whyte's performance against Joshua in December, albeit a losing one, showed that he would put up a spirited effort, and one capable of testing Haye's ageing body far more than the Mark de Moris of the world. What's more, it should be easy to make, easy to sell, and Haye could build his case towards a ludicrously lucrative contest with Joshua before, during and after the contest. Out of Haye's domestic rivals, Whyte, at least at this juncture, looks the most likely.

A large photograph of Charles Martin, a Black male boxer, flexing his biceps. He has a goatee and dreadlocks, and is wearing a white star-shaped ring on his right hand. He has tattoos on his chest and arms, including the word 'Above' on his left chest. The background is a dark, slatted wall.

CHARLES MARTIN

"THE shoulder feels better than it was before. I feel this new and improved version of me will go on and win heavyweight championships," Haye commented about his apparent desire to unify the division. The little-known Charles Martin is now the IBF champion [see pages 22-23], and would likely be a welcome target for any relevant name in the weight class. However, the sanctioning body he rules is a stickler for mandatory challenges and, as yet, Haye is nowhere to be seen in their rankings, and beating up de Mori is unlikely to see him enter too highly. Boxing politics appear to make this one a non-starter.

RUSLAN CHAGAEV/LUCAS BROWNE

RUSLAN CHAGAEV, 37, defends his WBA 'regular' title against Lucas Browne in March and the winner could be targeted by Haye later in the year. The Brit wants to return in April, but might be persuaded to wait a little while longer for a contest that would be unquestionably winnable, and for a spurious title that could be marketed as a genuine one. Chagaev or Browne would also represent a decent test for Haye at this stage of his career, and the Brit must have secured a lofty spot in the WBA rankings thanks to the bludgeoning he handed to the their 10th best heavyweight in the world.

CARLOS TAKAM

A WILDCARD, perhaps, but the beatable Frenchman holds a Top 15 ranking with the IBF, WBC and the WBO. Ageing and stocky, Takam is another fighter who could make Haye look good and his reputation in the boxing world far exceeds that of de Mori. What's more, the Cameroon-born fighter's schedule is clear and he may feel the time is right to fight Haye after three confidence-building wins which followed a 2014 loss to Alexander Povetkin. Perhaps he lacks the name value of some other contenders on the list but Takam seems a perfect fit for Haye's masterplan.

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

DESPITE a 10-year reign, few people are mentioning 39-year-old Klitschko's [below] name anymore. But what if his subdued performance against Fury was an aberration, and not evidence of the ageing process? A win over Tyson in the return – surely not beyond the realms of possibility – and the Ukrainian regains his place as the man to be shot at. Also consider Haye's competitive streak, and ego. It bothered him for years that he never got the chance to gain revenge over Carl Thompson, and he would likely welcome a sequel with Klitschko whatever the result of the Fury rematch.



GREENWICH

JANUARY 16

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

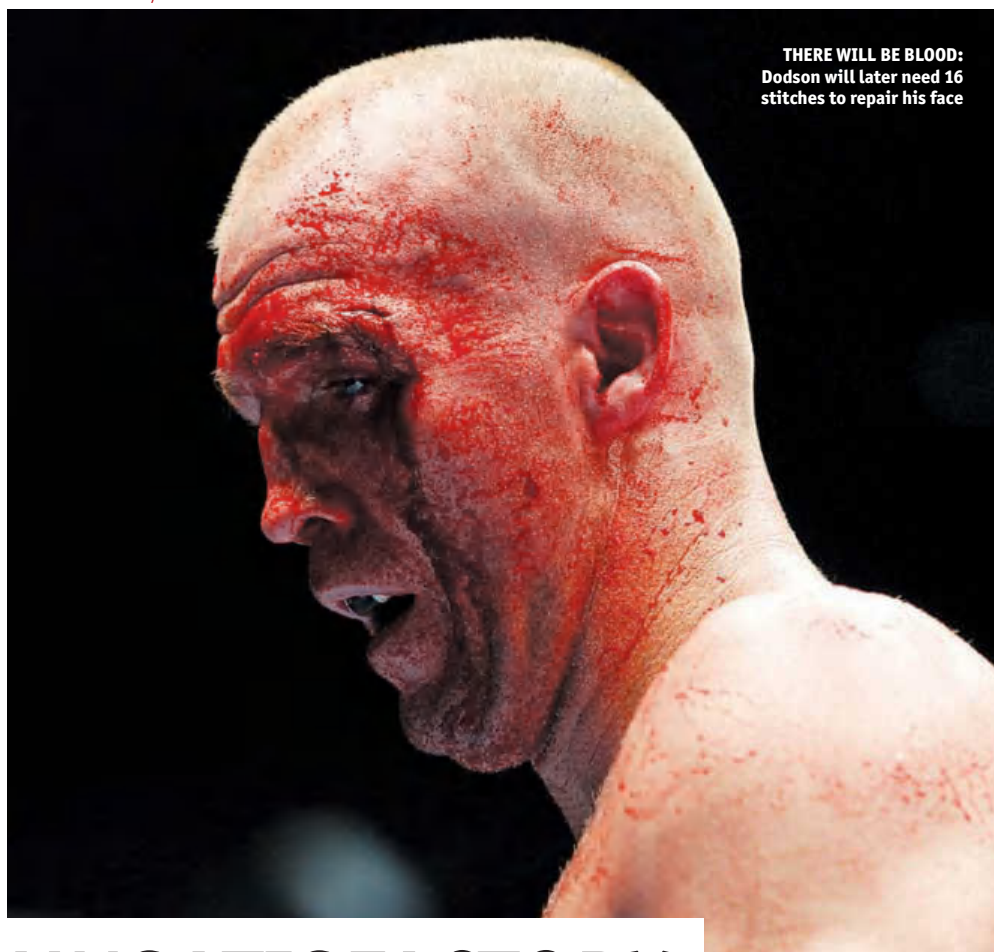
THE hard-fought scrap between Liverpool veteran **Tony Dodson** and Harlow's **Richard Horton** added some much-needed drama to the undercard – hit by the late cancellation of John O'Donnell-Shayne Singleton. As per, Dodson was forced to fight through his own blood, but appeared a more comfortable winner after six rounds than referee Kieran McCann's 59-56 card suggested.

Dodson, a former British super-middleweight champion, was perhaps outworked in the opening session but landed a delightful left hook, thrown with an expert hand, which was the highlight of the early exchanges. The Scouser upped the pressure in the second, and regularly showed his class on the inside and with his work on the counter. However, from what looked like a clash of heads, Dodson's left eye was suddenly framed by blood. He didn't seem to care, though. Ignoring the injury, he prowled after Horton and hurled a three-punch volley – finished with a short right – that dumped the underdog on the canvas. Horton rose gamely, but looked unsteady when the bell came to his rescue.

After that, it looked like Dodson dominated. He pummelled Horton up close, and while swallowing the occasional retort, his classier work appeared to guarantee victory. Although on two occasions the ringside doctor was asked to examine his grisly wound, which flapped and bled throughout, and would later require 16 stitches to close. After six rounds, Dodson's arm was raised, and considering the knockdown, the final tally suggests Horton was given at least a share of three of the other sessions.

Opening the evening – which in fairness ran like clockwork – was a cumbersome cruiserweight encounter between Canning Town's **Wadi Camacho**, and Czech **Jindrich Velecky**. Southpaw Camacho was deliberate

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



THERE WILL BE BLOOD:
Dodson will later need 16 stitches to repair his face

UNSATISFACTORY

Haye-de Mori undercard lacks any real excitement

with his attacks yet had some problems landing more than one shot at a time against a largely stationary target. Velecky, just happy to be there, offered no threat.

The Spain-born Camacho lowered his attack from head to body midway through, but his aim was off, and he landed a shot that appeared to graze Velecky's kneecap in the fourth. The favourite improved in the last two sessions but never looked like getting the stoppage. The 60-54 score returned by McCann surprised no one.

Tidy Luton prospect, **Kay Prospere**, took just 2-32 to blaze through Killamarsh's usually sturdy **Lee Connelly** in a super-lightweight contest scheduled for six. Prospere started fast, raining punishment on Connelly from the start. A right hand dumped Connelly on the deck midway through the first, and he delivered the finish one minute later via a short left hook. Referee Jeff Hinds' decision to call it off was the right one.

At super-bantamweight, the two-minute duration of rounds – as opposed to the more common three – allowed brave but outgunned **Elemir Rafael** to survive the full six-session course

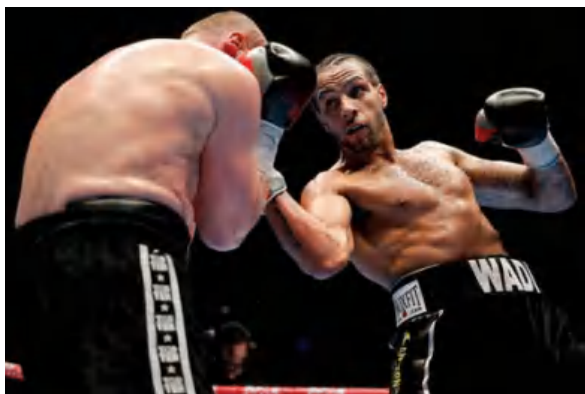
with Folkstone's **Josh Kennedy**.

The Slovakian was under fire from the start and Kennedy, who had stopped all four of his previous opponents, moved in for the finish as early as the opening round. But Rafael was tough and game, and refused to fall, opting instead to hold on tight to Kennedy. The broad, thin shoulders of Kennedy are designed for power but he had to settle for the lopsided 60-54 points win this time.

Cries of "Fix" greeted Stratford-based Angolan **Jose Lopes'** effortless win over Dinnington's **Darren Snow**, who toppled from a left hook that only seemed to graze. After 35 seconds it was all over, including Mr Hinds' 10-count. **BN**

FULL RESULTS

David Haye (227 1/4lbs), 27-2 (25), w rsf 1 **Mark de Mori** (243 1/2lbs), 30-2-2 (26); **Tony Dodson** (175 3/4lbs), 32-8-1 (15), w pts 6 **Richard Horton** (177 3/4lbs), 9-6 (1); **Kay Prospere** (142lbs 2oz), 7-0 (5), w rsf 1 **Lee Connelly** (140 1/4lbs), 4-17-1; **Wadi Camacho** (201lbs 1oz), 14-5 (8), w pts 6 **Jindrich Velecky** (197lbs 14oz), 19-40 (18); **Josh Kennedy** (126 1/2lbs), 5-0 (4), w pts 6 **Elemir Rafael** (125lbs 2oz), 33-101 (8); **Jose Lopes** (197 3/4lbs), 6-0 (3), w ko 1 **Darren Snow** (196lbs 7oz), 1-2-1.





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UNBRIDLED FURY

Wilder unhinges competitive Szpilka before rival champ Tyson throws down the gauntlet



Jack Hirsch

RINGSIDE

🇺🇸 BROOKLYN, NY

JANUARY 16

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

★★★★☆ ATMOSPHERE

0

NE punch from **Deontay Wilder** may have changed the course of the heavyweight division. The short right which obliterated **Artur Szpilka** at 2-24 of the ninth round (set for 12) not only resulted in Wilder retaining his WBC heavyweight title, but also started the drums beating for what could turn out to be the biggest heavyweight fight in a couple of decades.

After Szpilka was removed from the ring by stretcher as a precautionary measure, into the ring bounced an

animated Tyson Fury, the WBO and WBA Super champion, demanding a unification showdown. Fury took off his vest and threw it to the ground in a gesture of wanting to settle matters then and there. It was pure WWE stuff. Fury seemed delighted in casting himself as the villain and the crowd of 12,668 at Barclays Center ate it up. But the longer Fury stayed in the ring the more the potential of a dangerous melee loomed. Wilder, shielded in his corner, at first did not respond. However, a confrontation became inevitable when Fury, after pacing around the ring, insisted on walking right up to Wilder where they went face to face. The sheer size of the massive Fury made it evident that promoter Lou DiBella and the New York State commission personnel

would have been at risk had a physical altercation occurred. Security was sparse. "Any time, any place, anywhere.

"I'll fight you in your backyard after I beat [Wladimir] Klitschko again" said Fury.

"We all know Fury is just a phony" responded Wilder. "This is just an act - you're not a real fighter."

TALKING POINT

AS an article on our website, boxingnewsonline.net, explains in more detail, WBC rules allow unification contests to take precedence over mandatory obligations. So Wilder could delay the Povetkin defence by meeting Martin.

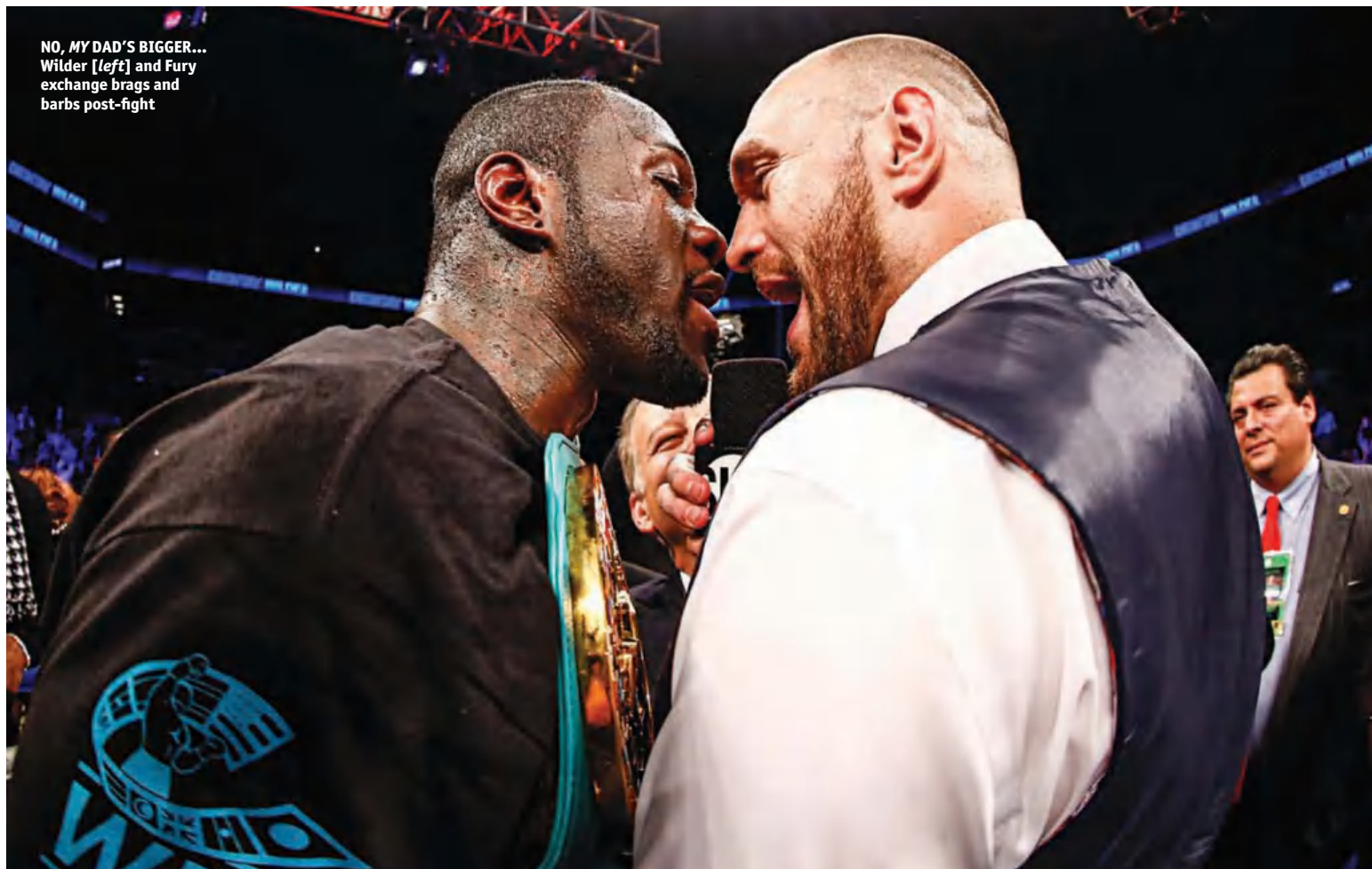
Certainly, the knockout of Szpilka was one of the most devastating one-punch endings in heavyweight history. It conjured up memories of the 1972 light-heavyweight championship fight in which

Bob Foster wrecked Mike Quarry

with a single blow.

Maybe because Szpilka had been so competitive to that point, referee Mike Griffin did not realise the severity of the blow at first. As Szpilka lay

NO, MY DAD'S BIGGER... Wilder [left] and Fury exchange brags and barbs post-fight





STRUGGLING:
Wilder [right] finds
the going tough
against Szpilka

motionless on his back Griffin started to count, but stopped at 'five' when it then became evident to him that the man from Wieliczka, Poland was out. By that point the medics were rushing into the ring and Dr Barry Jordan was frantically waving for the stretcher to be brought in. Even Wilder who had engaged in

a shoving match with Szpilka earlier in the week during a promotional event, stopped and looked down on his

adversary and seemed concerned. Szpilka was on the canvas for several minutes but appeared responsive in following the doctor's instructions. And when Artur was being removed on the stretcher he pumped

**'WE HAD
NINE ROUNDS
AND THEY
ALL CAN'T
BE PRETTY'**

his right fist to the crowd. At that point everyone was relieved.

Wilder's big right rendered the scorecards irrelevant and also masked just how much he had struggled until the end. In the punch statistics Wilder's edge was marginal, but judges Pasquale Procopio and Waleska Roldan had him comfortably ahead at 78-74, while Guido Cavalleri had the man from Tusculooosa up 77-75. The consensus at ringside was that it was a close fight in which Wilder was slightly up.

The heavy contingent of fans from Brooklyn's Polish community roared loudly whenever Szpilka attacked. They motivated their man who moved in and out, side to side, frustrating Wilder with quickness. It was not until the third round that Wilder was able to establish a rhythm. Wilder moved forward behind a jab and followed up with some long rights. Szpilka had been cautiously attacking, never standing still long enough to engage.

A right had Szpilka reeling backward in the fourth. Deontay was cutting the ring off better, but Szpilka remained elusive and scored with two jabs and a left hook that sent the sweat sailing off Wilder's head in the fifth. The champion quickly restored order, landing a savage ➤



BREAKING THROUGH:
Wilder [right]
begins to get
a grip on proceedings,
but Szpilka is
hanging in there

RINGSIDE NOTES

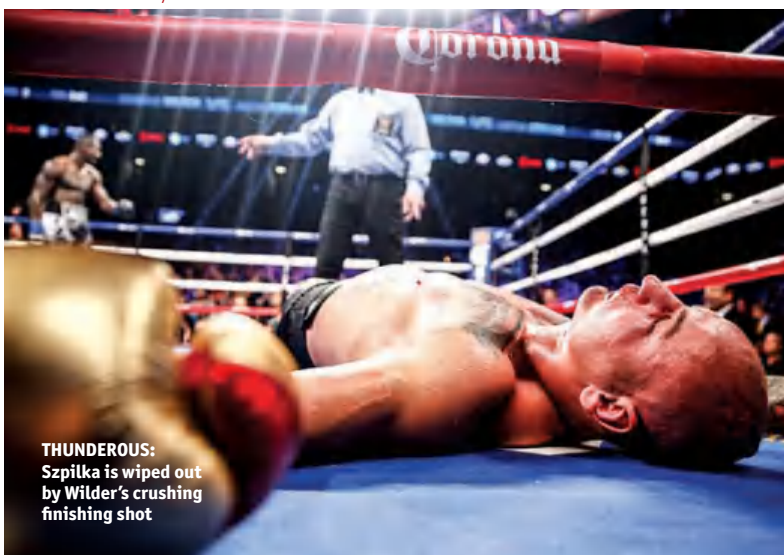
● **THE** Showtime network celebrated 30 years of broadcasting fights with a tribute to Evander Holyfield. Holyfield's 18 appearances on Showtime are the most of any boxer.

● **MARTIN'S** trainer is Henry Tillman, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist who derailed Mike Tyson's Games hopes.

● **ON** the day of the big show two separate memorial services were held in New York, first in Manhattan for former WBC president Jose Sulaiman. Later that afternoon in Glen Cove there was a tribute for 1976 Olympic gold medalist Howard Davis who recently passed away.

● **THINGS** were a bit on the lighter side the day before when there was a roast for Lennox Lewis at the Friars club in Manhattan. In attendance was Mike Tyson. The two share a warm bond which might come as a surprise to many.

Photos: STEPHANIE TRAPP/SHOWTIME



THUNDEROUS: Szpilka is wiped out by Wilder's crushing finishing shot

➤ right uppercut – and that was how it was playing out until the decisive moment. Szpilka would dart in with a flurry, not having much power behind the blows. Wilder would land a good punch now and then, but was largely frustrated by his inability to trap the challenger. The frustration was mounting for Wilder, but he remained patient.

Ironically the match ended in such explosive fashion not because of the champion's aggression, but because of the challenger's. Late in the ninth round Szpilka had Wilder backed up. He then dipped down and threw a left hook with

full force. The blow was way too wide and never reached the mark. Wilder stepped in with a perfect short right to the chin and it was all she wrote.

Trainer Ronnie Shields, while stressing how proud he was of Szpilka's effort, also expressed frustration over how he threw the hook which resulted in him getting caught. "I stressed in training camp over and over that it was something he shouldn't do," said Shields.

"He was a crafty guy," admitted Wilder. "I haven't competed against a southpaw in three years. I'm surprised it took that long, but we had nine rounds and they all can't be pretty."

A day of reckoning is coming for Wilder. He cherishes being WBC champion to the point of having his green belt dressed in fur. WBC president Mauricio Sulaiman made it abundantly clear at the press conference two days before the fight that the winner had to box mandatory challenger Alexander Povetkin, who was in attendance at Barclays Center. Some feel that Al Haymon and the others guiding Wilder's career will avoid Povetkin, who would be by far the best and most dangerous opponent he has faced. They could then match him with the new IBF champion (see below) who would be less of a threat. Will Wilder override his advisors and insist on fighting Povetkin? Stay tuned.

Charles Martin and **Vyacheslav Glazkov** met over a scheduled 12 rounds for the vacant IBF heavyweight title that was ridiculously stripped from Fury. It can be argued that the fight that never should have been made, never got started. After two timid rounds that resembled a meek sparring session, Glazkov stumbled backward in the third round and went down without getting hit. Glazkov limped slightly when he got up. Glazkov then threw a long body blow, but as he did the man from Ukraine's right knee became distorted and he fell backward. He got up limping and there was temporary confusion as to what was occurring. At most southpaw Martin threw a punch that grazed Glazkov's glove. Glazkov looked like he wanted out. Soon it became apparent why: he had



NON-STARTER: Martin stands over the injured Glazkov following some timid fare



UNLIKELY KING:
Martin, the new IBF
champ [inset], greets
unified ruler Fury

torn his right ACL, the most severe of all knee injuries. It was then stopped at 1-50 of the session.

Martin, from Carson, California, now finds himself as the most unlikely of champions. Although unbeaten, Martin had never remotely mixed in world-class company before. There is usually a line to face a world champion, but for Martin that queue will extend around the block, so vulnerable is he perceived. For now at least, all contenders will take note that the easiest path to the world heavyweight title goes through the man that the IBF calls its king.

"He felt my power" said Martin before watching the replay and being forced to acknowledge the injury played a decisive role in the outcome.

"This should have been my belt," said a disconsolate Glazkov. "I already had him figured out. I slipped and felt a sharp pain in my right knee. I'm very upset and want a rematch when I recover."

For the record they were even on the scorecards when it was waved off. Eric Marliniski had it 19-19, Benoit Russell 20-18 for Glazkov, and Nelson Vazquez 20-18 in favor of Martin.

Martin-Glazkov was the first world heavyweight title bout fought in Brooklyn in over 115 years, dating back to 1900 when Jim Jeffries knocked out James Corbett in the 23rd round in Coney Island. That was a legendary fight fought by legendary fighters. At that time the heavyweight championship of the world meant a lot more than it does today.

Some excellent performances were turned in by undercard fighters, starting in the show-opener which saw Warsaw's **Maciej Sulecki** halt veteran Chicago journeyman **Derrick Findley** at 1-29 of the seventh round of a scheduled 10.

Findley is your prototypical fighter who is much better than his record indicates. In his last contest he lost a split decision to Australian

prospect Zac Dunn, but against Sulecki never won a round. Sulecki impressed with his smooth boxing skills and is ready to take a serious leap up in class.

A right nearly dropped Findley in the seventh round at which point it was stopped by referee Shada Murdaugh.

Adam Kownacki and Washington, D.C.'s **Danny Kelly** engaged in the best fight of the night despite the lopsided scoring in the Brooklyn-based Pole's favour (Carlos Ortiz and Robert Perez 80-72 and Glenn Feldman 79-73 over eight sessions). It was non-stop punching throughout. Kownacki's workrate never wavered, but Kelly hung tough and refused to pack it in when he easily could have. Kelly fought back valiantly but Kownacki was too strong and relentless.

The novelty of marketing Chicago's **Mike Lee** as a former football player

Photo: ED DILLER/DIBELLA ENTERTAINMENT



FULL RESULTS

Deontay Wilder (228 3/4lbs), 36-0 (35), w rsf 9 **Artur Szpilka** (233 1/4lbs), 20-2 (15); **Charles Martin** (249 1/2lbs), 23-0-1 (21), w rsf 3 **Vyacheslav Glazkov** (218lbs), 21-1-1 (13); **Adam Kownacki** (252 3/4lbs), 13-0 (10), w pts 8 **Danny Kelly** (231 1/4lbs), 9-2-1 (8); **Mike Lee** (177 1/2lbs), 16-0 (10), w rsf 3 **Joseph Gardner** (178lbs), 11-9-1 (1); **Julian Sosa** (141 1/4lbs), 4-0-1 (2), w rsf 2 **Bryan Timmons** (139 1/2lbs), 3-7 (3); **Carlos Gongora** (170 1/2lbs), 4-0 (3), w rsf 4 **Derrick Adkins** (171 1/4lbs), 1-1-1 (1); **Botirsher Obidov** (160 3/4lbs), 4-0-1 (1), w pts 4 **Ramil Gadzhiev** (161 1/4lbs), 1-1 (1); **Ivan Golub** (147lbs), 10-0 (8), w rsf 1 **Jean Rodriguez Jnr** (146 3/4lbs), 12-4 (5); **Maciej Sulecki** (161 lbs), 22-0 (7), w rsf 7 **Derrick Findley** (161 3/4lbs), 22-18-1 (14).

for the "Fighting Irish" college team of Notre Dame has worn off. Lee who has also done a high-profile commercial for the food chain Subway seems more of a part-time fighter than one who is making boxing his main focus. In any event, Lee was predictably impressive on this evening against overmatched Rhode Island fighter **Joseph Gardner**. Lee dropped Gardner three times, twice in the second and once in the third. Referee Tony Chiarantano halted the contest at 43 seconds of the third with the beaten boxer on the canvas. It was scheduled for eight rounds.

Brooklyn-based Russian **Ivan Golub** ran New Jersey fighter **Jean Rodriguez Jnr** out of the ring, dropping him twice in the opening round of their eight. After 2-41 had elapsed it was waved off by referee Benji Estevez.

Carlos Gongora stopped Oklahoma's **Derrick Adkins** at 1-56 of the fourth round in a six. Brooklyn's Gongora floored Adkins once in the second and twice in the fourth.

All three judges deservedly had Kissimmee's **Botirsher Obidov** up 39-37 at the end of his four-rounder with Boca Raton's **Ramil Gadzhiev**. The difference in the fight was Gadzhiev's ability to get off first.

The small promotional group New Legends Inc proudly had announced earlier in the week the signing of Brooklyn light-heavyweight **Julian Sosa**. The partnership got off to a nice start when Sosa halted St Joseph, Missouri southpaw **Bryan Timmons** at 1-48 of the second round. It was scheduled for four. **BN**

THE VERDICT Wilder keeps winning against decent opposition but a real challenge now threatens.

NON-STOP:
Kownacki [right]
outscores Kelly in a
cracking contest

SHOT OF THE WEEK



Photo: ED DILLER/DIBELLA ENTERTAINMENT

FACE CHANGER

WHEN all else fails, Deontay Wilder's power does not. Here the American slugger cracks brave Artur Szpilka [right] with a huge left hand en route to retaining his WBC heavyweight title in Brooklyn, New York



PREVIEWS

Previewing the best upcoming fights around the world

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ FAIR ★★★★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

The star ratings indicate how well the writer believes the fighters match up, the fight(s)' contextual significance, and how good the fight(s) will be

TIME TO DAZZLE

Garcia needs to beat Guerrero and look good doing it, writes Daniel Herbert

TREADING WATER: Garcia is yet to take the boxing world by storm after a bright introduction

Photo: BILL McCAY/PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD



HE curious career of **Danny Garcia** takes another sideways step when the unbeaten Philadelphian takes on faded

Robert Guerrero for the vacant WBC welterweight title in a 12-rounder at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday (January 23).

Since reaching world level Garcia has alternated superb wins over big names like Amir Khan, Lucas Matthyse and Erik Morlaes with uninspiring victories against moderate opposition. Guerrero, five years older than Garcia at 32, would appear to fall into the latter category, given

that his two most recent fights – both in 2015 – saw “The Ghost” thrashed by Keith Thurman and then lucky to get past unheralded Aaron Martinez.

So this weekend's match-up is even odder given that it marks the debut of Al Haymon's *Premier Boxing Champions* project on the free-to-air Fox network in the USA (BoxNation show it in the UK). The exciting Thurman v Shawn Porter fight, originally mooted for this show, would have made more sense but has now been put back.

So Garcia v Guerrero it is, and it's the sort of fight where Danny needs not just to win – but win impressively. Garcia admitted that his two 2015 outings didn't see him at his best: “My last two

fights, I fought Lamont Peterson who was the IBF champion, and Paulie Malignaggi, who got stopped by Shawn Porter but has faced a lot of great fighters. Those were some experienced fighters that have

fought world champions. Guerrero's a good fighter but we'll be ready for him and come out with the win.”

Guerrero, for his part, warned people not to write him off because of his most recent fight last June, when the southpaw had to get off the floor to edge a split 10-round

decision over Martinez.

“It was a lack of focus,” explained the Gilroy, California man of that close call. “I went in there and got off my game plan and started slugging with Aaron.

‘GUERRERO’S A GOOD FIGHTER BUT WE’LL BE READY FOR HIM’



TALE OF THE TAPE

DANNY GARCIA	ROBERT GUERRERO
@DannySwift	@GHOSTBOXING
Mar 20, 1988/27	DOB/AGE Mar 27, 1983/32
Philadelphia, PA	HOMETOWN Gilroy, CA
American	NATIONALITY American
5ft 8 1/2ins	HEIGHT 5ft 8ins
68 1/2ins	REACH 70ins
31-0 (16)	RECORD 33-3-1 (18) 2NC
Orthodox	STANCE Southpaw
Nov 17, 2007/19	DEBUT/AGE May 22, 2001/18
58	KO PERCENTAGE 46
Angel Garcia	TRAINER Ruben Guerrero

Photo: BRETT OSTROWSKI/MARIO SERRANO/TEAM GUERRERO



'WHEN YOUR MIND IS NOT RIGHT, YOU'RE UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE'

SLIPPING:
Guerrero's best days appear to be behind him



EXPERT VIEW

ASHLEY THEOPHANE
OUTPOINTED BY GARCIA IN 2010

GUERRERO will bring it. He always does. It's a great fight for Danny, as though he can be outboxed, Guerrero will be boxing right in front of him. In the end, I think Garcia will win a tough fight – around 8-4, or 9-3 in rounds on the scorecards – but he will have to fight hard to earn the victory. This should be an entertaining fight.

When your mind is not right, you're unable to concentrate."

A barrage of blows to head and body put Guerrero down in round four and he was saved by the bell. Yet he showed guts to battle back and outhustle Martinez over the last three rounds for the win.

"It's time to put that behind me and move on," said Guerrero. "This fight is to take that next step and get back on top with that title. Danny Garcia is undefeated. He says he wants to break through the division and I am here to be that wall."

Indeed, this will be only Garcia's second fight at 147lbs, following his ninth-round stoppage of Paulie Malignaggi in August. Danny was a clear winner, cutting Malignaggi and wearing him down methodically, but Paulie's peak was at 140lbs and he was past his best; the contest's only meaning was to provide a gentle introduction to the welterweights.

"I feel a lot stronger at 147 pounds," said Garcia before moving into the third person (always a worrying sign in a fighter). "We'll see the best of Danny Garcia at 147 – fresher, faster, stronger and a lot smarter."

To be fair, he had faded alarmingly in his previous outing, a 143lbs catchweight affair against Lamont Peterson, who like

Garcia came into their April 2015 fight with a super-lightweight belt. Danny was cut on the right eye in round 11 and under heavy pressure in the last, but hung on to take a majority decision courtesy of his work in the first seven rounds (when Peterson was curiously lethargic).

And two years earlier, Garcia had likewise struggled in the later stages of a points win over Zab Judah in a super-lightweight title defence, so he should feel much more comfortable up at welter. He should be naturally the bigger man against Guerrero, who held world belts at feather, super-feather and lightweight (interim only) before jumping two weights to 147 back in 2012 (some 11 years after his pro debut).

A big win against Andre Berto earned Robert a payday against Floyd Mayweather, but his fitness and workrate couldn't trouble Floyd, who won unanimously. Guerrero outslugged Yoshihiro Yamegai in one of 2014's best fights but in March last year was badly beaten by Thurman in the first ever PBC promotion, being dropped heavily in

round nine and badly cut on the left eye en route to a wide points defeat.

A similar outcome looks likely this weekend. Guerrero's heart cannot be questioned and one can see him soaking up punishment while hanging in there doggedly as the faster, sharper Garcia piles up the points. Yet Danny will have to go the distance, as he tends to in big

fights, withstanding his 2012 fourth-round stoppage of Amir Khan – the man he may meet next, given the WBC have named Khan mandatory challenger for this fight's winner.

Another welter bout on this card pits former US Army veteran

Sammy Vasquez, 20-0

(14), against the aforementioned

Aaron Martinez, from East Los Angeles and 20-4-1 (4), in a 10-round WBC title eliminator. Southpaw Vasquez, from Monessen in Pennsylvania, is the man on the rise and should take the win on points.

THE VERDICT Garcia needs to remind the world of his talents against an opponent made for him.

TALKING POINT

WITH Garcia's Puerto Rican roots and Guerrero's Mexican ancestry, this is the latest in a heralded rivalry between two great boxing nations.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ALEX MORTON

ONLY THE BEGINNING:
Walsh [atop brother
Michael's shoulders]
wants the Lonsdale
Belt for keeps



TALE OF THE TAPE

RYAN WALSH		DARREN TRAYNOR
@Walsh7Ryan		n/a
May 18, 1986/29	DOB/AGE	Oct 27, 1986/29
Cromer	HOMETOWN	Aberdeen
English	NATIONALITY	Scottish
5ft 6 1/2ins	HEIGHT	5ft 7ins
19-1-1 (8)	RECORD	11-0 (5)
Orthodox	STANCE	Orthodox
Feb 2, 2008/21	DEBUT/AGE	Sep 23, 2011/24
38	KO PERCENTAGE	45
w pts 4	COMMON FOE – SID RAZAK	w pts 6

HOT STUFF

Walsh and Traynor can combine for a cracker, writes Daniel Herbert

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT
★★☆☆☆ UNDERCARD

FRANK WARREN'S first promotion of the year could well set a high standard when **Ryan Walsh** takes on **Darren Traynor** in the main

event at York Hall, Bethnal Green on Friday (January 22).

At stake on this BoxNation-televvised show is the British featherweight title Walsh won by beating Samir Mounieimne in September, which saw him join super-feather twin Liam as a national ruler. (They are the first twins to hold Lonsdale Belts at the same time).

As Ryan is a pressure-fighter who is never in a bad contest, and Traynor an unbeaten challenger whose limits are not yet established, styles should blend

pleasingly. It could well go the full 12 rounds and come down to who catches the judges' eyes.

"It took plenty of hard work, blood, sweat and tears to win the British title, so I'm definitely not losing it in my first defence to the likes of Traynor," said Cromer's Walsh, whose first crack at the British 126lbs belt saw him outpointed by Lee Selby in October 2013.

Ryan lost that night by margins of eight points and six points twice, but cut Selby on both eyes – and it's a result that looks a whole lot better given how the "Welsh Mayweather" went on to win the IBF title.

It remains the only loss for Ryan, whose other pro blemish was a 10-round draw with Dundee's Ronnie Clark in November 2012. BN's man ringside had

Walsh winning by three rounds and said even the Clark camp seemed surprised at getting a share of the verdict. Don't forget, too, that it was up at super-feather (for a British Masters belt) and Ryan's powerfully-built 5ft 6 1/2ins

frame is better suited to featherweight.

Walsh won the British title at the second attempt, although it was a split decision that some felt could have gone either way. In a fight that saw both have good spells, Mounieimne showed the better skills but Ryan applied pressure constantly and scored a

fifth-round knockdown with a short right. A one-point scorecard for Mounieimne was overruled by scores of six points and four points for Walsh, and the Norfolk man was the new British champion.

'I'M NOT LOSING IT IN MY FIRST DEFENCE TO THE LIKES OF TRAYNOR'

RETURNING:
Pettitt aims to put
his recent defeat
behind him



"Winning the title has put me onto another level in my career," said Ryan. "By the end of 2016 I want to have defended it three times and made the Lonsdale Belt my own, so I'll be making sure Traynor doesn't affect my plans."

Traynor was a drug addict at 13 but has battled back and doesn't intend to waste all that hard work now he's got to this level. "I'm on my own course to achieve my destiny and that's to win the British title. It was a fairy tale for Ryan when he won the title, and for him and Liam to be the first twins to hold British titles at the same time. But that page is getting ripped out when I fight him."

"Ryan's good."

He's awkward and puts on plenty of pressure, but I've seen plenty of weaknesses and I know I've got the tools to beat him. Let's see if his strength and speed can match mine, plus I have endless stamina."

Yet while Traynor has a 100 per cent record, only one opponent has had a winning record – David Savage, the Glaswegian he met in an April 2015 British title eliminator. To give him credit,

Daren rose to the occasion, dropping Savage twice for a sixth-round stoppage.

On the negative side, in November 2013 Traynor only just scraped past Bulgaria's Yordan Vasilev in an International Masters bout (up at 130lbs, admittedly). Vasilev, who has an up-and-down record, floored Traynor twice in round one with rights to the head – the punch with which Walsh decked Mouneimne, remember.

Darren did recover to win on points (96-94) but Walsh is surely capable of putting him under more pressure, and hitting him harder, than Vasilev did.

Ryan has been training in Tenerife where he's been sparring left-hooker Andy Townend, so he figures to be in top shape for what could well prove a gruelling fight.

Traynor will give it his best, but he has much less experience than Walsh of hard fights, and ones over the championship distance, so the pick is for Ryan to outwork him in the bout's second half to earn a clear points victory.

Chief support sees East Dulwich's stylish **Ahmet Patterson**, 16-0 (6), take on Birmingham southpaw

TALKING POINT

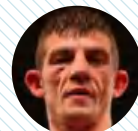
WALSH-TRAYNOR is the first British title fight of the new year. Next will be Liam Williams defending the super-welter strap against Nay Mansouri on February 13.

Ryan Aston over 10 rounds for the vacant IBF Intercontinental super-welterweight belt.

Aston's 18-2-2 (8) ledger includes losses for Midlands Area belts at middleweight by Curtis Valentine (rsf 2 in 2012) and super-welter by Jason Welborn (pts 10 in 2015). He can push Patterson, but the Londoner has the skills to win on points.

Four months after losing to Bobby Jenkinson for the Commonwealth super-bantam crown, Erith's **Lewis Pettitt** can make a winning return in an eight-rounder against **Krzysztof Rogowski** from Poland.

THE VERDICT Walsh can make a statement at the start of what should be a big year for him.



EXPERT VIEW

DAI DAVIES
DOMESTIC
FEATHER
CONTENDER

IT'S a 50-50 fight. Ryan Walsh looked great against Samir Mouneimne, whom I'm going to fight in a final eliminator for the Commonwealth title. It was a close fight and only the knockdown separated them in the end. Traynor's not bad, but he's not got a lot of experience. This is a step up for him. Walsh was supposed to defend against Ryan Doyle, but that fell out and now it's Traynor. So it depends how much notice Darren has had. We know Walsh has been in training camp for 10-12 weeks, at the MGM gym in Marbella. How much training they've done will tell in the final rounds. Walsh is strong, a good inside fighter who is tough to beat.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH



ASTON:
Southpaw is a
quality operator

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/PAUL CHILDS



PATTERSON:
Skilful Ahmet
goes for a belt



BACK TO HIS BEST:
Williams celebrates
a glorious return,
adding the
British title to his
Commonwealth strap



'THE BIG FIGHTS WILL COME ON MY TERMS'

Paul Wheeler speaks to a man who is anticipating a bright future for himself... and rightly so



It is fair to say that big things are expected of Welsh starlet Liam Williams. Aside from an unfortunate technical draw against a cut Tyan Booth just over two years ago, the gifted Clydach Vale man boasts an unblemished record as a pro, with 13 dominant

victories (eight inside the distance). The reigning British and Commonwealth super-welterweight champion is looking forward to making even greater waves this year, starting with a defence of his titles against Navid Mansouri on February 13 in Liverpool.

After 13 months out of the ring due to an injured right hand, you returned last month with a second-round stoppage of Kris Carslaw in a fight that saw you claim the vacant British title, as well as successfully defend your Commonwealth crown. How did your hand feel during the bout?

It felt perfect. The only issue was that I had to get my confidence back after such a long time out. That was to be expected really, especially considering how much pain the injury had caused me. When I first went back to the gym after having surgery on my hand, I was a bit wary of the types of punches that I was throwing, but mentally, I'm fully confident now.

You first injured your hand during a victory over Yuri Pompilio (rsf 8) in Germany in April 2014. How exactly did the injury occur, and had it been troubling you ever since?

What happened was, I slipped a jab and went for the right uppercut. The punch landed right on the point of [Pompilio's] elbow,

which broke my hand. The damage just escalated from there really. During sparring and fights, I kept catching my knuckle [on the right index finger]. Whenever I caught it on the top of someone's head or on their elbow, the pain was just unbearable.

Thankfully, I don't have any worries about this anymore.

How many operations have you had on the hand since the Pompilio fight?

I had to have two different operations.

The first doctor I went to see said that I wouldn't be able to box again. Obviously, I didn't want to be hearing that, so I went and got a second and third opinion, and I found a doctor in Cardiff who was willing to take on the job. He was confident that he could fix my hand, so I took him up on it straightaway. I'm just so glad and thankful that it's all fixed now.

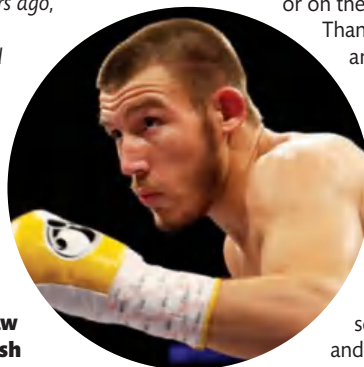
During your 13-month injury-enforced absence from the ring prior to the Carslaw clash, how long were you out of the gym for?

I didn't actually have that long out of the gym, to be fair. Obviously I couldn't do any punching or sparring, but I kept going along to the gym to keep in contact with my trainer, Gary Lockett, and all the boys. I couldn't do any proper training, but I enjoyed just doing my own thing and keeping myself fit and in shape. I was just trying not to get too fat!

Not being able to box or train properly for over a year must have been very difficult for you. Did you ever fear that you'd become a forgotten man in the

super-welterweight division during your hiatus?

Yeah, I did in a way. I think anybody else in my position would've felt the same. When you're not active and not in the picture, ➤



RECOVERED: Williams feels good now after the inactivity enforced by injury

'I ENJOYED KEEPING FIT. I WAS JUST TRYING NOT TO GET TOO FAT!'



ROUNDED:
Williams is becoming a complete fighter

'ALL THREE OF US SPAR REALLY WELL AND LEARN A LOT FROM EACH OTHER'



THEN AND NOW:
Williams injures his right hand against Pompilio [above right] and hammers Carshaw [right]



► then you're kind of unseen, so people are going to start forgetting about you – it's natural I suppose. Fortunately I was able to come back in December with a good win against Carshaw, and hopefully get a few people back on the Liam Williams bandwagon.

Due to the injury you suffered, the Pompilio fight is obviously not one you look back on with much fondness. However, was it nonetheless a good experience for you, as it marked the first time that you'd competed outside of the UK as a pro? And is fighting abroad something that you'd like to do again in the future?

Fighting outside of Britain was definitely a valuable experience for me. I witnessed different things out in Germany that don't normally happen when I'm fighting on a bill at home. The experience has prepared me mentally for other fights abroad in the future – it's made me more mature as a fighter. If the right opportunity came up, I'd be happy to travel anywhere for a fight.

You train alongside British middleweight titlist Nick Blackwell, under the guidance of Lockett in Cardiff. You must spar Blackwell quite regularly.

We do a lot of sparring together. We've got a lot of respect for each other, but we push each other really hard at the same time.



We're both British champions at the moment, and we bounce off each other really well. As well as Nick, I also spar Alex Hughes quite a lot. He's an undefeated, talented young fighter who's also trained by Gary. With me being a super-welterweight, Nick being a middleweight, and Alex being a super-middleweight, it works out really well for us when it comes to sparring. All three of us spar really well, and we learn a lot from each other.

Your three most recent contests combined have lasted less than 10 minutes, and you even finished Carshaw with a jab. Do you think this demonstrates the power you possess?

To be totally honest, I don't class myself as a massive puncher. However, strangely enough, I think the time out may have done me a bit of good in that respect. The rest I had from boxing has been a blessing in disguise in a way, because since I've come back, I'm more mature, and I'm punching harder. The injury and the time out was obviously difficult for me, but I think it's worked in my favour, as I'm a more rounded fighter now.

What do you make of your upcoming opponent, Mansouri?

I've got respect for him, and I think he's a good fighter. I never underestimate any opponent. If I was fighting someone who'd been pulled off the street, I'd still train just as hard as if I was fighting a



NOT FUSSED: Williams beats Ronnie Heffron [above left] and Darren Codona [left], and will fight anyone



PROFESSIONAL: Williams [left] works hard under Lockett regardless of the opponent

world champion. I'm always very dedicated in the gym, and I make sure I train really hard. As long as I'm on form against Mansouri, I think it'll be a routine win for me. Nevertheless, I'm not taking him lightly. I think he's going to come and give me a good fight.

If all goes well for you against Mansouri, what are your plans for the rest of 2016? Is the European super-welterweight champion, Frenchman Cedric Vitu, on your radar?

One of my aims is to win the Lonsdale Belt outright [by making three successful defences of the British title]. Then again, if a bigger opportunity came up, I'd have to rethink. It'd be more than likely that I'd move on from British level if a bigger opportunity presented itself. Boxing's quite a mad sport, so you never know what's round the corner. I'm just going to take everything as it comes, and see what happens. Of course, fighting for the European title would interest me a million per cent. If I was offered the fight against Vitu right now, I'd ditch the Mansouri fight and go straight for it. That's just the type of person I am. I'm always up for a challenge, and I'm willing to take anyone on.

Your Queensberry Promotions stablemate, Liam Smith, is the WBO super-welter title-holder. You're still just 23 years old, and you've only boxed just over 50 rounds as a professional, but do you feel that you're ready for an opponent of Smith's level yet?

I definitely feel that I'm a good enough fighter to beat any of the top guys in my division, but I'm just lacking experience. I'm aware that, ideally, I could do with getting some more rounds under my belt before I step in the ring with the top guys. I'm happy moving along at the speed that I've been going at so far in my career. Things are moving nicely at the moment, and I'm sure that these big fights will come when they're ready, and they'll come on my terms.

In an ideal world, when would you like the Smith fight to happen?

The perfect time for me would probably be 12-18 months down the line. Then again, if I was offered the fight before then, I'm not saying that I wouldn't take it. In fact, I definitely would take it. But in an ideal world, I'd have that fight in 12-18 months' time. **BN**

'THE PERFECT TIME FOR ME [TO FIGHT SMITH] WOULD BE 12-18 MONTHS DOWN THE LINE'

★ SINAN ★
SAMIL SAM

BIG FEATURE

BOXING NEWS

SHATTERED PROMISE

A lethal relationship with alcohol cost Sinan Samil Sam more than his boxing career; it cost him his life, writes **Mark Whiteside**

T

HE passing of former European heavyweight champion Sinan Samil Sam on October 30 was not unexpected – rumours had been circulating for a number of days, particularly in the German and the Turkish media, that his health had deteriorated to such an extent that his death was imminent – but it was shocking nonetheless.

At the age of 41, his body ravaged by years of alcohol abuse and in desperate need of a replacement liver, Sam lost his final fight in an Istanbul hospital bed, surrounded by his family. Pictures posted on the internet revealed a grossly overweight figure, hardly recognisable from the fighter of a decade before. It was a tragic end for a man who, while never reaching the pinnacle of the sport, enjoyed a respectable career.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, to Turkish immigrants, Sam relocated to Ankara at an early age. It was there that he embarked on a trophy-laden amateur career which included nine Turkish championships, a gold medal at the junior World championships in 1992 and silver at the European

championships in 1993. After beginning as a middleweight, Sam moved up through the weight classes and signed off as a super-heavyweight with a gold medal at the 1999 World championships in Houston.

Ahmet Oener, later to become known as a promoter but at that point still an active boxer, engineered Sam's switch to the professional code with Hamburg's Universum Box-Promotion in 1999.

"The way he was brought to Universum was pretty much how Ahmet Oener got into management," Malte Mueller-Michaelis, the former managing director of Oener's promotional company, Arena Box-Promotion, told *Boxing News*. "He'd seen that a Turkish fighter had become the amateur world champion, and as there's a large Turkish community in Germany, wouldn't that be an opportunity? So Ahmet endeavoured to get Sinan under contact."

Sam arrived in Hamburg as a competent practitioner, but his ability alone wasn't sufficient to propel him to the forefront of the German boxing scene.

"The conditions at Universum at that time were good, but Sinan wasn't an easy case in terms of integration," explained Mueller-Michaelis. ➤

END IS NIGH:
Sam smiles
in front of
souvenirs from
his boxing
career, eight
months before
his death

Photo: OZGE ELIF
KIZIL/ANADOLU
AGENCY/GETTY
IMAGES



“
**FIGHTERS
MENTIONED YOU
COULD SMELL THE
ALCOHOL ON HIM...
IT WAS CLEAR HE
WASN'T IN OPTIMAL
CONDITION**
”

EYES TELL THE STORY: Sam [right] throws his arms aloft but McCall gets the decision

Photo: RZA OZEL/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES



► "It's important to speak German, and to give interviews. He wasn't the showman, and unlike the Klitschkos, he really didn't grasp how important his appearance was outside of the ring. He wanted to impress with his performances inside the ring, but that by itself isn't enough for the German market. It's enough to become an absolute sports star in Turkey, but not in Germany."

Despite his lack of media friendliness, Universum were still able to steer Sam to the European heavyweight title. In October 2002, in his 16th bout, Sam relieved Poland's Przemyslaw Saleta of the belt to set up an encounter with Britain's Danny Williams.

"I thought it was going to be a walk in the park," recalled Williams to *Boxing News*. "After watching him on tape I thought, 'This guy is absolutely useless. I'm going to become European champion easy.' I trained well for the fight. You have to train well, and I trained well but, basically, I didn't think it was going to be a fight. That all changed after the first round."

Williams entered the ring in Berlin fully expecting to overwhelm Sam, but he was in for a rude awakening. His man down twice in the fourth round, and again in the fifth, Williams' trainer Jim McDonnell was compelled to throw the towel in during the sixth as his thoroughly beaten charge was mercilessly knocked around the ring.

"I found him to be immensely strong," reflected Williams. "Having seen him fight I didn't think much of him. I thought I was going to jab this guy's head off, I thought, 'I'm going to beat this fat, overweight Turkish guy', but then in the ring with me I felt his immense strength. He was a very, very strong fighter."

"It devastated me. Totally, it destroyed me."

I remember, a few days after the fight I booked a ticket to go to America, on my own. I went there to spar in Gleason's Gym. It really shook me up, that loss. It hurt me badly."

Two months later Sam followed up with a seventh-round stoppage

of another Brit, Julius Francis, but then things started to unravel. Consecutive losses, firstly over 10 to Juan Carlos Gomez the following September in the US and then, in February 2004, a disputed majority decision against Luan Krasniqi in a European title defence, signalled the end of his first stint at Universum.

A move to Sauerland Event offered Sam new perspectives, but by this time disillusionment with the politics of the sport had begun to set in.

"You hear from your manager, who's also your confidant, that you've been cheated and obviously you start to feel that they don't want you at the top in Germany, and that is a source of frustration," said Mueller-Michaelis of the Krasniqi fight. "On top of that came the loss against Gomez in the USA, and then a new start at Sauerland. He was never really happy."

His tenure at Sauerland lasted less than two years. After beating an assortment of hand-picked opponents, Sam met Oleg Maskaev in a WBC final eliminator. Maskaev won widely on the scorecards and went on to become a world champion in his next fight by beating Hasim Rahman.

Sam returned briefly to Universum before joining Ahmet Oener's fledgling outfit, Arena Box-Promotion in 2006. It was a small stable, and Sam was the biggest star.

"In many respects, when Ahmet founded Arena, he did it around Sinan," explained Mueller-Michaelis. "Sinan was the first main event fighter. At that time he was a former European champion, and the basic idea was to bring him in and try to get him to the point where he could fight for a world championship. Sinan wasn't in the best shape at that time, to be

honest. But he was a very experienced heavyweight, and well placed in the rankings. Ahmet's aim was to lead Sinan to a world championship."

His recruitment also provided Oener with an avenue into the relatively unexplored Turkish market. In only his second fight for Arena,



BRIEF PEAK: Williams reels back under fire from Sam

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Sam was matched against Oliver McCall in Ankara in a WBC title eliminator.

"There weren't any professional boxers in Turkey before Sinan, and we went there with the first professional boxing promotion in June, 2007," said Mueller-Michaelis. "It was unique. At that time there was only Sinan, and after becoming the amateur World champion he had a very high profile in Turkey. We picked up on that when we were in Ankara. It was unbelievable how people reacted to him in the street."

Despite the euphoria in his homeland, all was not well. Sam felt that he was being exploited, and his antagonism towards his promoter was palpable. In the end, he lost a unanimous decision against McCall.

"It was a fight which he should have won, but Sinan didn't deliver what he needed to," continued Mueller-Michaelis. "I don't know if he was psychologically strong enough at that point to reach the very top. Ahmet gave him a chance with the world championship eliminator. You could sense the tension between them, particularly around the fight in Turkey where there were arguments about the purse."

"Ahmet knew that he wasn't an easy character, but he always ensured that Sinan earned good money [when he was his manager]. When he became a promoter, he needed to earn the purses, and that's when they fell out."

He fought on, and even recaptured the European title against Paolo Vidoz, but his best days were behind him. Disillusionment and frustration played an ever-more significant role, and his reliance on alcohol became obvious to many of those around him.

"Fighters did mention that you could smell the alcohol on him during training," said Mueller-Michaelis. "It was clear that Sinan wasn't in optimal condition – he didn't look like a well-trained heavyweight boxer."

"The physical deterioration was noticable, and I think that setbacks and the hand of fate would have contributed to the situation not getting any better. When you watch the last fight against Paulo Vidoz, even before the weigh-in Vidoz couldn't really run, and neither could Sinan. The fact that the fight

was for the European championship is shameful as neither boxer was in the kind of condition where you could describe him as a professional athlete."

He was, you might argue, too reclusive to be a star.

"Sinan had lived in Germany for a long time," said Mueller-Michaelis. "He didn't want to speak much. I think he could understand everything, but he avoided speaking. Since getting to know him, I never had a particularly close relationship to him because he wasn't the kind of person who had a warm approach. He had a subtle sense of humour, but he remained distant. Maybe he was just a bit disillusioned by the world of professional boxing, and for that reason didn't let anybody get very close to him."

"We mustn't forget that Sinan was an amateur World champion. He had the disposition and the schooling to go a long way, and he won the European championship and had a very close fight with Luan Krasniqi. He belonged to the pinnacle of the European scene, and I think that while he was still with Universum, when Arena was founded, he was a bit frustrated and a bit disillusioned. The way professional boxing works, and the changing of promoters, leads to an athlete losing faith."

"Sinan was the entry to the business. Arena came from nothing, and Sinan was a former European heavyweight champion and somebody who came close to getting a world title shot. Ahmet played his cards well. After Sinan lost to McCall, Ahmet matched McCall against [Juan Carlos] Gomez, who had also joined Arena by then. Gomez went on to fight Vitali Klitschko for the heavyweight title."

Others were granted the opportunities that Sam had craved. As well as Gomez and Maskae, Krasniqi and Williams also went on to challenge for world titles.

For Sam, a career that had promised so much came to an unsatisfactory end, and he drifted away into anonymity back in Turkey. His name reappeared, briefly, in 2010 when it was reported in the German media that he was likely to die if he didn't receive a replacement liver. Sadly, his recovery was only temporary. **BN**

SHOCKING:
Sam's bloated
physique
contrasts the
image of his
amateur
heyday in the
background

Photo: OZGE ELIF
KIZIL/ANADOLU
AGENCY/GETTY
IMAGES



JANUARY**THURSDAY 21****Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow**

Grant Quigley v Mark Till; Andrew Mackay v Lee Redpath; Ukashir Farooq v s/o. (Promoter: St Andrew's Sporting Club).

FRIDAY 22**York Hall, Bethnal Green (BoxNation)**

Ryan Walsh (holder) v Darren Traynor (British featherweight title); Ahmet Patterson v Ryan Aston (vacant IBF Inter-Continental super-welterweight title); Lewis Pettitt v Krzysztof Rogowski; Sammy McNess v Duane Green; Billy Long v Kieron Grey; Archie Sharpe v Youssef Al Hamidi; Ben Smith v Dan Carr; DP Carr v Joe Beeden. (Promoter: Queensberry Promotions).

SATURDAY 23**Staples Center, Los Angeles, California (BoxNation & FOX)**

Danny Garcia v Robert Guerrero (vacant WBC welterweight title); Sammy Vasquez v Aaron Martinez; Dominic Breazeale v Amir Mansour. (Promoter: TGB Promotions).

Butte Civic Center, Montana

Anthony Bonsante v Yori Boy Campas. (Promoter: Dee Lee).

Mexicali, Mexico

Jose Zepeda v Jose Lopez.

Faleata Sports Complex, Apia, Samoa

Joseph Parker v Jason Bergman. (Promoter: Duco Events Ltd).

THURSDAY 28**Crowne Plaza, Glasgow**

Stephen Tiffney v Ryan Hanson; Thomas Dickson v Michael Stupart; Marc Kerr v Chris Jenkinson; Stephen Simmons v Remigijus Ziauslys. (Promoter: MGM Scotland).

Park Lane Hilton, Mayfair

Sheldon Purdy v Georgi Georgiev; Nick Webb v s/o; Richard Connolly v Ali Wyatt. (Promoter: Hellraiser Promotions).

FRIDAY 29**Belasco Theater, Los Angeles, California (Estrella TV)**

Julian Ramirez v Christopher Martin (vacant WBC Youth Silver featherweight title); Abraham Lopez v Carlos Valcarcel. (Promoter: Golden Boy Promotions).

Santa Clara del Mar, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Roberto Bolonti v Walter Cabral. (Promoter: Boxeo de la Costa).

SATURDAY 30**Copper Box Arena, Hackney Wick (Sky Sports)**

George Groves v Andrea Di Luisa (vacant WBC International super-middleweight title); John Ryder v Sergey Khomitsky (vacant WBA International middleweight title); John Wayne Hibbert (holder) v Tommy Martin (Commonwealth super-lightweight title); Martin Joseph Ward (holder) v Mario Pisanti (WBC International super-featherweight title); Kris Agyei-Dua (holder) v Ben Hall (Southern Area super-welterweight title); Leon McKenzie v Kelvin Young; Ohara Davies v s/o; Ted Cheeseman v Ryan Hardy; Reece Bellotti v Dai Davies; Charlie Duffield v Richard Harrison; Lucien Reid v s/o; Craig Richards v Kieron Gray; Louis Adolphe v s/o. (Promoters: Matchroom Boxing & Sauerland Event).

Guildhall, Plymouth

Chris Adaway v Danny Parsons; Courtney Richards v Josh Burke; Christian Hoskin Gomez v Mark Till; Ben Zacharkiw v Qasim Hussain; Jack Bellingham v s/o; Ross Roberts v s/o; Darren Townley v Duane Grimes. (Promoter: Black Country Boxing Promotion).

Bell Centre, Montreal, Canada (BoxNation & HBO)

Sergey Kovalev (holder) v Jean Pascal (IBF, WBA Super & WBO light-heavyweight titles); Dmitry Mikhaylenko v s/o; Renan St Juste v Francis Lafreniere (vacant IBF International middleweight title); Virgilijus Staponionis v Laszlo Fazekas; Joel Diaz Jr v Abraham Gomez. (Promoter: Main Events & Interbox).

Shanghai Oriental Sports Center, China

Zou Shiming v Natan Santana Coutinho; Ik Yang v Chalernpol Singwancha;

Ryota Murata v Gaston Alejandro Vega. (Promoter: Top Rank & SECA Ltd).

Marriott Convention Center, Burbank, California (UniMas)

Jose Felix Jnr v Ricky Sismundo; Egor Mekhontsev v Felipe Romero; Danny Valdivia v Kenneth Council; Arnold Barboza Jnr v Robbie Cannon. (Promoter: Top Rank & Bash Boxing & PR Sports Promotions Inc).

SUNDAY 31**Seminole Casino, Immokalee, Florida (Bounce TV)**

Erickson Lubin v Jose de Jesus Macias.

FEBRUARY**WEDNESDAY 3****Prince Regent Hotel, Chigwell**

Boy Jones Jnr v s/o; Lee Markham v s/o. (Promoter: Longshot Sports & Double A Promotions).

FRIDAY 5**Roadstone Club, Dublin, Ireland**

Gerard Whitehouse v s/o; Sean Turner v s/o; Steve Collins Jr v s/o; Ciaran Mullen v s/o; Ian Tims v s/o; James Metcalf v s/o; Tshifhiwa Munyai v s/o; Luke Keller v s/o. (Promoter: MGM Promotions).

Fantasy Springs Casino, Indio, California (Estrella TV)

Randy Caballero v Ruben Garcia; Frankie Gomez v Silverio Ortiz. (Promoter: Golden Boy Promotions).

Balai Sarbini Convention Hall, Jakarta, Indonesia

Daud Yordan v Yoshitaka Kato. (Promoter: Mahkota Promotions).

SATURDAY 6**Magna Centre, Rotherham**

Muheeb Fazeldin v Klaas Mboyane (vacant Commonwealth bantamweight title); Liam Cameron v s/o; Sam Sheedy v s/o; Waleed Din v s/o; Ramzy Nassa v s/o; Leon Field v s/o; Razaq Najib v s/o; Loua Nassa v Jordan Turner; Kyle Yousaf v s/o; Tom Bell v s/o; Kevin Skill v s/o; Osman Aslam v s/o. (Promoter: Dennis Hobson Promotions).

Europa Hotel, Belfast

James Fryers v Maxi Hughes; James Tennyson v Antonio Horvatic; Paul Hyland Jnr v Jan Holec; Joe Fitzpatrick v Ruslans Berdimuradovs; Feargal McCrory v Peter Mellar; Tyrone McCullagh v s/o. (Promoter: Mark H Dunlop).

Newport Centre

Craig Kennedy v Tony Conquest; Barrie Jones (holder) v Bradley Pryce (Welsh Area super-welterweight title); Andrew Selby v s/o; Tony Dixon v s/o; Sonny Lee v s/o; Morgan Jones v s/o;

Nathan Thorley v s/o; Jermaine Asare v s/o; Ashley Brace v s/o. (Promoter: Sanigar Events).

National Stadium, Dublin, Ireland (BoxNation)

Danny Butler v Gary Corcoran (vacant WBO Inter-Continental super-welterweight title); Jamie Kavanagh v Antonio Joao Bento (vacant WBO European lightweight title); Peter McDonagh v s/o; Craig O'Brien v s/o; Sean Creagh v s/o; Philip Sutcliffe Jnr v s/o; Paul Hyland v s/o; Stephen Ormond v s/o; Declan Geraghty v s/o; Gary Sweeney v s/o; Romeo Romao v s/o; Anthony Fitzgerald v s/o. (Promoter: MGM Promotions & Queensberry Promotions).

Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Ryosuke Iwasa v Dennis Tubieron. (Promoter: Teiken Promotions).

TUESDAY 9**Sands Bethlehem Event Center, Pennsylvania (FOX Sports 1)**

Jamel Herring v Luis Eduardo Flores. (Promoter: King's Promotions).

FRIDAY 12**Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand**

Pungluang Sor Singyu (holder) v Jetto Pabustan (WBO bantamweight title). (Promoter: Onesongchai Boxing Promotion).

SATURDAY 13**Echo Arena, Liverpool (BoxNation)**

Terry Flanagan (holder) v Derry Mathews (WBO lightweight title); Liam Williams (holder) v Navid Mansouri (British and Commonwealth super-welterweight titles); Tommy Langford (holder) v Lewis Taylor (WBO Inter-Continental middleweight title); Matty Askin (holder) v Lawrence Bennett (English cruiserweight title); Steven Lewis v Marek Laskowski; Paul Butler (holder) v s/o (WBO European super-flyweight title); Thomas Stalker v s/o (vacant WBO European lightweight title); Ryan Farrag v s/o; Vijender Singh v s/o; Leon Woodstock v Joe Beeden; Kevin Satchell v s/o. (Promoter: Queensberry Promotions).

Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds

Reece Cartwright v s/o; Zahid Hussain v s/o. (Promoter: Rebecca Margel).

Dearne Valley Leisure Centre, Denaby

Steven Hale v s/o; Josh Wale v s/o; Robbie Barrett v s/o; David Allen v s/o; Lee Appleyard v s/o. (Promoter: Stefy Bull Promotions).

GL1 Leisure, Gloucester

Akeem Ennis Brown v Chris Adaway; Andy Harris v Dean Evans; Danny Carter v s/o; Kane Stewart v s/o; Scott Gibbins v/o. (Promoter: Keith Mayo).

BOXING ON THE BOX**THURSDAY 21**

7.00pm BoxNation
Bunce's Boxing Hour
9.00pm BoxNation
Cassius and Helder

FRIDAY 22

7.00pm BoxNation
LIVE Ryan Walsh v
Darren Traynor

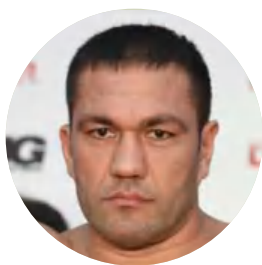
SUNDAY 24

1.00am BoxNation
LIVE Danny Garcia v
Robert Guerrero

6.00pm BoxNation
BoxNation meets
Bob Arum

WEDNESDAY 27

1.00am Channel 4
KOTV Boxing Weekly

**HEAVYWEIGHT**

over 200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **TYSON FURY** 25-0 (ENG)
- 2 **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 64-4 (UKR)
- 3 **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** 30-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DEONTAY WILDER** 36-0 (USA)
- 5 **KUBRAT PULEV** 22-1 (BGR) *[above]*
- 6 **LUIS ORTIZ** 24-0 (CUB)
- 7 **BERMANE STIVERNE** 25-2-1 (CAN)
- 8 **CARLOS TAKAM** 33-2-1 (CMR)
- 9 **CHARLES MARTIN** 23-0-1 (USA)
- 10 **VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV** 21-1-1 (UKR)

CRUISERWEIGHT

200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI** 25-0 (POL)
- 2 **MARCO HUCK** 38-3-1 (GER)
- 3 **GRIGORY DROZD** 40-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DENIS LEBEDEV** 28-2 (RUS)
- 5 **VICTOR EMILIO RAMIREZ** 22-2-1 (ARG)
- 6 **OLA AFOLABI** 22-4-4 (ENG)
- 7 **FIRAT ARSLAN** 36-8-2 (GER)
- 8 **ILUNGA MAKABU** 19-1 (COD)
- 9 **TONY BELLEW** 26-2-1 (ENG)
- 10 **OIVILL MCKENZIE** 25-12-1 (ENG)

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT

175lbs/12st 7lbs

- 1 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 2 **ADONIS STEVENSON** 27-1 (CAN)
- 3 **JEAN PASCAL** 30-3-1 (CAN)
- 4 **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** 47-2 (GER)
- 5 **ANDRZEJ FONFARA** 28-3 (POL)
- 6 **ARTUR BETERBIEV** 9-0 (RUS)
- 7 **ELEIDER ALVAREZ** 19-0 (COL)
- 8 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 9 **ISAAC CHILEMBA** 24-3-2 (MAW)
- 10 **VYACHESLAV SHABRANSKY** 14-0 (UKR)

SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT

168lbs/12st

- 1 **JAMES DeGALE** 22-1 (ENG)
- 2 **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** 44-4 (GER)
- 3 **BADOU JACK** 20-1-1 (SWE)
- 4 **LUCIAN BUTE** 32-3 (CAN)
- 5 **GEORGE GROVES** 21-3 (ENG)
- 6 **ANTHONY DIRRELL** 28-1-1 (USA)
- 7 **FEDOR CHUDINOV** 14-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ANDRE DIRRELL** 24-2 (USA)
- 9 **FELIX STURM** 39-5-3 (GER)
- 10 **GILBERTO RAMIREZ** 33-0 (MEX)

**MIDDLEWEIGHT**

160lbs/11st 6lbs

- 1 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 46-1-1 (MEX)
- 2 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-5 (PRI)
- 3 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 34-0 (KAZ)
- 4 **DANIEL JACOBS** 31-1 (USA)
- 5 **BILLY JOE SAUNDERS** 23-0 (ENG)
- 6 **PETER QUILLIN** 32-1-1 (USA)
- 7 **ANDY LEE** 34-3-1 (IRL)
- 8 **DAVID LEMIEUX** 34-3 (CAN)
- 9 **DANIEL GEALE** 31-4 (AUS)
- 10 **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM** 31-2 (FRA)

SUPER-WELTERWEIGHT

154lbs/11st

- 1 **ERISLANDY LARA** 22-2-2 (CUB)
- 2 **AUSTIN TROUT** 30-2 (USA)
- 3 **JERMALL CHARLO** 23-0 (USA)
- 4 **JERMELL CHARLO** 27-0 (USA)
- 5 **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** 22-0 (USA)
- 6 **VANES MARTIROSYAN** 36-2-1 (USA)
- 7 **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE** 34-6 (USA)
- 8 **CARLOS MOLINA** 23-6-2 (USA)
- 9 **ISHE SMITH** 28-8 (USA)
- 10 **LIAM SMITH** 22-0-1 (ENG) *[above]*

WELTERWEIGHT

147lbs/10st 7lbs

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 33-1-1 (USA)
- 3 **KELL BROOK** 35-0 (ENG)
- 4 **AMIR KHAN** 31-3 (ENG)
- 5 **SHAWN PORTER** 26-1-1 (USA)
- 6 **KEITH THURMAN** 26-0 (USA)
- 7 **ROBERT GUERRERO** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 8 **DANNY GARCIA** 31-0 (USA)
- 9 **LAMONT PETERSON** 34-3-1 (USA)
- 10 **JESSIE VARGAS** 26-1 (USA)

SUPER-LIGHTWEIGHT

140lbs/10st

- 1 **VIKTOR POSTOL** 28-0 (UKR)
- 2 **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** 37-4 (ARG)
- 3 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 27-0 (USA)
- 4 **ADRIEN BRONER** 31-2 (USA)
- 5 **JOSE BENAVIDEZ** 24-0 (USA)
- 6 **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** 19-2 (RUS)
- 7 **MAURICIO HERRERA** 22-5 (USA)
- 8 **EDUARD TROYANOVSKY** 23-0 (RUS)
- 9 **CESAR RENE CUENCA** 48-1 (ARG)
- 10 **ANTONIO OROZCO** 23-0 (MEX)

**LIGHTWEIGHT**

135lbs/9st 9lbs

- 1 **JORGE LINARES** 40-3 (VEN)
- 2 **TERRY FLANAGAN** 29-0 (ENG)
- 3 **ISMAEL BARROSO** 19-0-2 (VEN)
- 4 **DEJAN ZLATICANIN** 21-0 (MNE)
- 5 **YURIORKIS GAMBOA** 25-1 (CUB)
- 6 **ANTHONY CROLLA** 30-4-3 (ENG)
- 7 **ARGENIS MENDEZ** 23-3-1 (DOM)
- 8 **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** 35-5 (MEX)
- 9 **RANCES BARTHELEMY** 24-0 (CUB)
- 10 **DENIS SHAFIKOV** 36-2-1 (RUS)

SUPER-FEATHERWEIGHT

130lbs/9st 4lbs

- 1 **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** 24-0-1 (JPN)
- 2 **FRANCISCO VARGAS** 23-0-1 (MEX)
- 3 **TAKASHI MIURA** 29-3-2 (JPN)
- 4 **JAVIER FORTUNA** 29-0-1 (DOM)
- 5 **BRYAN VASQUEZ** 34-2 (CRI)
- 6 **SERGIO THOMPSON** 30-4 (MEX)
- 7 **ROMAN MARTINEZ** 29-2-3 (PRI)
- 8 **ORLANDO SALIDO** 42-13-3 (MEX)
- 9 **EDEN SONSONA** 34-6-2 (PHL)
- 10 **JOSE PEDRAZA** 20-0 (PRI)

FEATHERWEIGHT

126lbs/9st

- 1 **VASYL LOMACHENKO** 5-1 (UKR)
- 2 **GARY RUSSELL JNR** 26-1 (USA)
- 3 **LEO SANTA CRUZ** 31-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SIMPIWE VETYEKA** 28-3 (RSA)
- 5 **ABNER MARES** 29-2-1 (MEX) *[above]*
- 6 **LEE SELBY** 22-1 (WAL)
- 7 **JESUS CUELLAR** 28-1 (ARG)
- 8 **EVGENY GRADOVICH** 21-1-1 (RUS)
- 9 **RONNY RIOS** 25-1 (USA)
- 10 **JAYSON VELEZ** 23-1-1 (PRI)

SUPER-BANTAMWEIGHT

122lbs/8st 10lbs

- 1 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 16-0 (CUB)
- 2 **SCOTT FRAMPTON** 21-0 (NIR)
- 3 **CARL QUIGG** 31-0-2 (ENG)
- 4 **NONITO DONAIRE** 36-3 (PHL)
- 5 **KIKO MARTINEZ** 35-6 (SPA)
- 6 **GENESIS SERVANIA** 27-0 (PHL)
- 7 **ALBERT PAGARA** 25-0 (PHL)
- 8 **REY VARGAS** 25-0 (MEX)
- 9 **JULIO CEJA** 30-1 (MEX)
- 10 **MANUEL AVILA** 19-0 (USA)

BANTAMWEIGHT

118lbs/8st 6lbs

- 1 **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA** 24-0-2 (JPN)
- 2 **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO** 17-0 (DOM)
- 3 **ANSELMO MORENO** 35-4-1 (PAN)
- 4 **JAMIE McDONNELL** 27-2-1 (ENG)
- 5 **TOMOKI KAMEDA** 31-2 (JPN)
- 6 **LEE HASKINS** 32-3 (ENG)
- 7 **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU** 51-3 (THA)
- 8 **RAU'SHEE WARREN** 13-1 (USA)
- 9 **ZHANAT ZHAKIYANOV** 26-1 (KAZ)
- 10 **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI** 46-6-1 (THA)

**SUPER-FLYWEIGHT**

115lbs/8st 3lbs

- 1 **NAOYA INOUE** 9-0 (JPN)
- 2 **OMAR ANDRES NARVAEZ** 44-2-2 (ARG)
- 3 **CARLOS CUADRAS** 34-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI** 37-4-1 (THA)
- 5 **ZOLANI TETE** 22-3 (RSA)
- 6 **KOHEI KONO** 31-8-1 (JPN)
- 7 **NORBERTO JIMENEZ** 23-8-4 (DOM)
- 8 **LUIS CONCEPCION** 34-4 (PAN)
- 9 **McJOE ARROYO** 17-0 (PRI)
- 10 **DAVID SANCHEZ** 28-3-2 (MEX)

FLYWEIGHT

112lbs/8st

- 1 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 44-0 (NIC)
- 2 **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** 33-2 (MEX)
- 3 **AMNAT RUENROENG** 17-0 (THA)
- 4 **BRIAN VILORIA** 36-5 (USA)
- 5 **KAZUTO IOKA** 19-1 (JPN)
- 6 **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** 36-3 (ARG)
- 7 **MORUTI MTHALANE** 32-2 (RSA)
- 8 **EDGAR SOSA** 51-9 (MEX)
- 9 **McWILLIAMS ARROYO** 16-2 (PRI)
- 10 **NAWAPHON POR CHOKCHAI** 31-0 (THA)

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT

108lbs/7st 10lbs

- 1 **DONNIE NIETES** 37-1-4 (PHL)
- 2 **YU KIMURA** 18-2-1 (JAP)
- 3 **PEDRO GUEVARA** 26-2-1 (MEX)
- 4 **RYOICHI TAGUCHI** 23-2-1 (JPN)
- 5 **ALBERTO ROSSEL** 34-9 (PER)
- 6 **AKIRA YAEHASHI** 23-5 (JPN)
- 7 **JAVIER MENDOZA** 24-3-1 (MEX)
- 8 **REY LORETO** 20-13 (PHL)
- 9 **MOISES FUENTES** 23-2-1 (MEX)
- 10 **RANDY PETALCORIN** 23-1-1 (PHL)

STRAWWEIGHT

105lbs/7st 7lbs

- 1 **HEKKIE BUDLER** 29-1 (RSA) *[above]*
- 2 **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN** 40-0 (THA)
- 3 **JOSE ARGUMENTO** 16-3-1 (MEX)
- 4 **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** 30-8 (JPN)
- 5 **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART** 11-0 (THA)
- 6 **CARLOS BUITRAGO** 28-1-1 (NIC)
- 7 **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG** 26-6-1 (CHN)
- 8 **KOSEI TANAKA** 6-0 (JPN)
- 9 **DENVER CUELLO** 36-5-6 (PHL)
- 10 **BYRON ROJAS** 16-2-3 (NIC)

POUND-FOR-POUND

The best of the best

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 44-0 (NIC)
- 3 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 4 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 33-1-1 (USA)
- 5 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 16-0 (CUB)
- 6 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 7 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 46-1-1 (MEX)
- 8 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-5 (PRI)
- 9 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 34-0 (KAZ)
- 10 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 27-0 (USA)

● If a fighter has been inactive for over a year, he will not be included in the rankings, unless he has a fight officially scheduled.

● Each fighter is ranked on the results they have achieved in their own specific weight division (excluding the pound-for-pound list).

● A fighter cannot be ranked in a specific weight division until he has competed in that division.

VESTED *INTEREST*

Meet the personalities
at the heart of the sport
With JOHN DENNEN

SHOWDOWN



John Dennen

@BoxingNewsJD

Amateur Editor

Why McGrail versus Stevenson is a bout you don't want to miss



ONE of the best contests of the year so far is all set for Thursday (January 21). America's Shakur Stevenson and GB's Peter McGrail,

formerly two tremendous prospects at Youth level, will meet when the British Lionhearts and the USA Knockouts clash in Miami in their first team match of the 2016 season in the World Series of Boxing.

Stevenson won nearly everything going before setting up to Senior level, including the Youth Olympics, and his victory in the US Olympic Trials makes him America's leading bantamweight. Liverpool's McGrail may not be as heavily hyped as his rival is in the States, but he has now gained more experience at Senior level, as well as being more established at the weight.

"When I went to the Youth Olympics and the Youth Worlds, he was there for

the USA at the weight below," McGrail said of Stevenson. "Mo Ali boxed him twice so I know what he's about. He's got good defence but I've got good feet. I feel like he's a bit flat-footed. He might try to slow the pace down and work at his own pace. So when he wants to rest, I'll work. Over five rounds I think I'll start to get to him towards the end of the fight."

For Britain McGrail has been to the Gee Bee and Felix Stamm tournaments, winning both. "I haven't lost an international fight as a Senior," he points out. "So I'm looking forward to it. I've never boxed five rounds, I've only ever boxed three so it'll be good."

McGrail is confident that he'll be well prepared for the longer distance. "We spar six rounds anyway," he notes. "I upped the strength work... It's only an extra two rounds. At the end of a three-round fight obviously you're tired but probably you've still got two rounds in you because you've trained for longer than three rounds."

"I don't know what the pace will be like, whether it'll be slowed down but I'll be looking to keep the pace up."

McGrail continued, "He hasn't boxed internationally at 56kgs yet, so he's got a bit to prove as well. He's never done five rounds, I've never gone five rounds but I'm confident I can get the win. I know I can go out there, and as long as I perform, I know I'll be sound."

The Liverpoolian is young, and the 2020 Olympics might be a more realistic option for him, but he dreams of Rio 2016. "In my eyes I feel I can make Rio," he said. "Qais [Ashfaq] most probably will go to the first qualifier, unless he gets injured or anything like that, or if his form's not the best. But I know I'm only getting better and better. I'll definitely get a chance at a qualifier if he doesn't qualify."

"I've just got to prove myself."

The US team will field their number ones on January 21 and it sets up some fascinating matches: Cam Awesome versus Lawrence Okolie at 91kgs, Charles Conwell versus Troy Williamson at 75kgs, Gary Russell versus Pat McCormack at 64kgs and Nico Hernandez versus Harvey Horn at 49kgs.

Photo: CHRIS BEVAN/GB

RISING STAR:
McGrail [right] defeats
Marcel Braithwaite
in the GB final



**'I HAVEN'T LOST
AN INTERNATIONAL
FIGHT AS A SENIOR'**



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WEB WISDOM

200 days until the Olympics!
CAM AWESOME starts the countdown.

Just had a little shake out in Jorge Rubio's boxing gym. The trainer of the great Guillermo Rigondeaux. Unbelievable.

TROY WILLIAMSON visits an expert ahead of his WSB bout in Miami.

Ronda Rousey – still champ in my eyes. Fan, inspiration, favourite fighter. Mentality is fire.

CHANTELLE CAMERON is not a fair weather fan.

This morning's run was a killer, a few of the boys nearly died. Things are getting real in Sheffield, ANTONY FOWLER reports.

Last week I felt 10 times better than I did the week before, and I felt 10 times better this week than I did last. Fitness coming on strong.

If our maths is correct, LUKE MCCORMACK is 100 times fitter than he was a fortnight ago. So watch out.

QUICK-FIRE Q&A

GB performance director Rob McCracken reflects on the year past and looks forward to 2016

WHAT are your thoughts on 2015, a tough year?

We had our best European senior championships ever, in the history of European championships. We had five boxers boxing in the final. Because the Olympic qualifications [began], it kind of got overlooked... We got gold and four silvers and a bronze.

The boxers performed well in the Worlds and arguably we could have come home with three or four medals, to be honest with you, and I thought Joe [Joyce] was unlucky.

They've all gained experience. WSB's coming at a good time so they can get more experience to prepare them for the qualifiers. It's a young squad, none of the males from London are here. It's still a young squad but it's got lots of potential in it.

Do you think with 2015 being such a busy year, that was catching up with some of the boxers by the end?

Possibly, possibly some of them showed a bit of fatigue. It's new enough for most of them, so it's a hard, hard schedule. They needed the break after the Worlds and after Christmas.

I think it benefited the more experienced ones in Olympic boxing throughout the world. Having said that, we still believe that we had some good performances in the World championships. Joe, Mo Ali looked like he was in control [lost on a cut]. I thought Qais [Ashaq] and Pat [McCormack] performed really well at the World championships and Joe [Cordina against Robson Conceicao] was very close, could have gone either way.

They've got a lot of learning to do but I think they showed at the Worlds they have the potential.

Do you have a feeling about which of the Olympic qualifiers you might get the most boxers through?

You just genuinely don't know. You can target one tournament and you do far better in the other one or the one before or the one after, you just don't know. It depends who you draw, what day it is, what form you're in, how you feel. There's a lot to it and that's why the support staff are vital as well in this prolonged bout of competition. There's a lot of work to do, there's a lot of boxing

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/PETER CZIBORRA



OPTIMISTIC:
McCracken believes his squad has great potential

ONWARDS

to do and we'll know where we're at after the last qualifier in June. Hopefully we'll have qualified enough boxers to go to Brazil and get what we need and the boxers get what they deserve. Everybody's

looking forward to it. There's a lot of fresh faces here over the last year or two but they're very confident and they're gaining experience by the second and they're really looking forward to it.

MISSION 2016

We pick out a boxer who's planning on making an impact this year

YAKUP SENER

THE new season of the World Series of Boxing began on January 16, pitting a new franchise, the Türkiye Conquerors, against the China Dragons in Istanbul.

Yakup Sener, a light-welterweight who became a 2012 Olympian qualifying through a tournament in his hometown, used his experience to secure victory over China's bustling Caicheng Meng, a pivotal win for the Conquerors on Saturday. In a five-bout match, the Turkish team had conceded their first two contests. China's Junjun He beat light-flyweight Hamza Kartal by a clear unanimous decision. Turkish bantamweight Hakan Gidem pulled out with injury after four rounds with Boxiang Xu, who was well ahead on the cards.

The team's fortunes turned with Sener's unanimous points win over Meng, which Evren Tibukoglu, 75kgs followed up with a points win over Minggang Zhao and Seyda Keser halted Chinese 91kgs Fengkai Yu in two rounds to secure a 3-2 team win.



FAST FACTS

Age: 26
From: Turkey
Stances: Orthodox
Titles: n/a

AMATEUR SCENE

The very best action, previews and news from Olympic-style boxing

With JOHN DENNEN | @BoxingNewsJD

SEND us your club's news, results or upcoming events to john.dennen@boxingnewsonline.net or 020 7618 3478

Tom Hutton sees another round of English title bouts

HODDESDON bantamweight **Charlie Kenny** kept his English title with a hugely-impressive second-round stoppage of **David Seymour** at the Irish Centre in Birmingham on January 16.

Kenny, making his first title defence, was too strong. He gave Seymour (Bell Green) a standing count in the dying seconds of the opening round and shook him up early in the second with a whipping left hook.

Kenny followed up to blast Seymour to his knees with a right and the referee waved it off.

The light-heavyweight title changed hands after **Reece Ellis** (Spennymoor) upset touted **Umar Sadiq** (Repton) on a split decision, possibly nicking it on the last round when he left the Londoner with a swelling around his right eye.

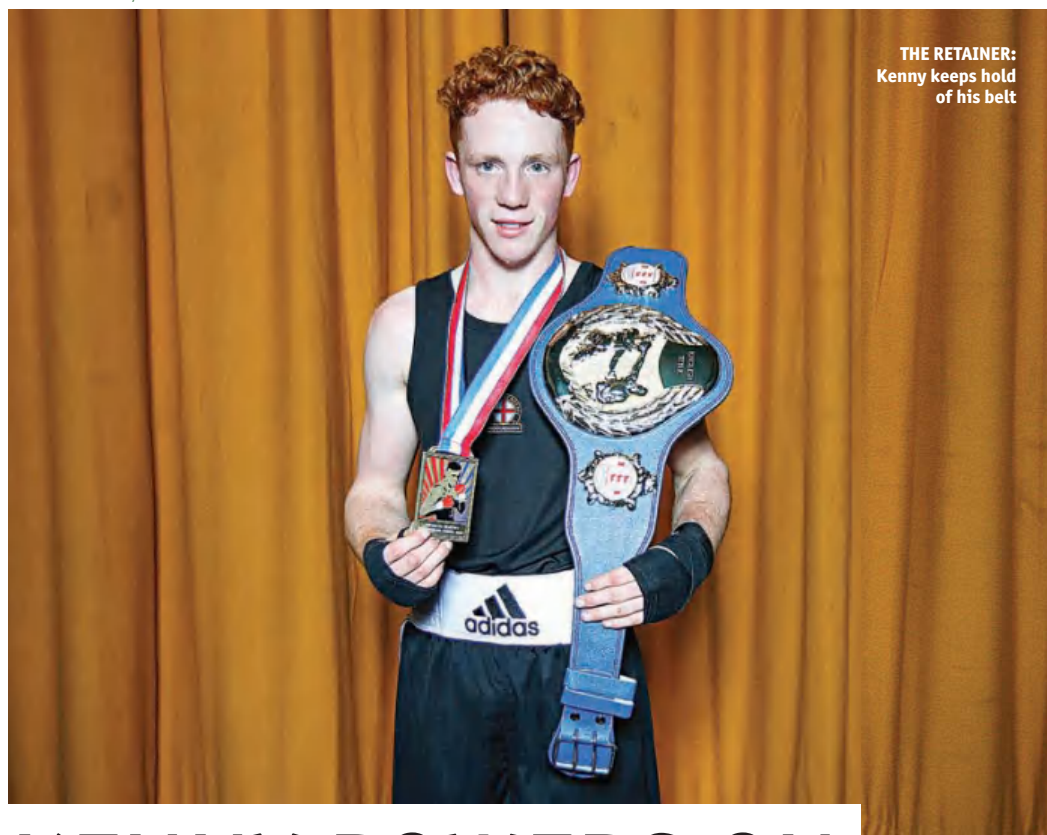
In an eliminator at 75kgs, Jewellery Quarter southpaw **Jordan Thompson** unanimously outpointed Spennymoor's **Gaz Dodds**, who was number seven in our latest English rankings.

After a thoughtful opening round, Dodds took the fight to Thompson at the start of the second.

The 20-year-old stood his ground, kept his defences tight, then counter-attacked with thumping two-fisted salvos to body and head before settling to box off the backfoot.

Dodds did get through with a pair of rights in the dying seconds of the round that brought a standing count, but Thompson wasn't badly dazed and went on to win the last clearly enough.

Photo: CHRIS BEVAN/ENGLAND BOXING



THE RETAINER:
Kenny keeps hold
of his belt

KENNY POWERS ON

Early in the round, he backed up Dodds with a left to the body and kept him on the backfoot until the end.

Thompson is now hoping for a shot at English titlist Jordan Reynolds (Hoddesdon), who beat him in the final of last year's Haringey Box Cup.

At heavyweight, there were wins for Tamworth teenager **Ryan Hatton** and **Natty Ngwenga**, now down at

91kgs having reached the Elite final at super-heavyweight last season.

Hatton put a lot into the first two rounds of his bout with **PJ Stubbs** (Henry's) and had to dig in during the last three minutes after feeling a body shot to secure a split points decision, his 44th win in 50 bouts.

In another eliminator, Ngwenga unanimously outpointed Poole's

Chris Billam-Smith, who's been troubled by a shoulder injury that has needed surgery since he reached the ABA cruiserweight final in 2013.

Billam-Smith boxed well under pressure, but couldn't stop Ngwenga (Army) coming forward.

Lightweight titlist **Corey O'Reagan** (Bradford College) pulled out of his defence against **Jack Wood** (Wednesbury) and in an eliminator, Cleary's pressure-fighter **Dan Quartermaine** repeated a points win over **Henri Potter** (Kingfisher).

RESULTS:

Eliminators: **60:** D. QUARTERMAINE (Cleary's) outpd H. Potter (Kingfisher). **69:** L. CUTLER (Poole) outpd C. Lynn (Royal Navy). **75:** J. THOMPSON (Jewellery Quarter) outpd G. Dodds (Spennymoor). **91:** R. HATTON (Tamworth) outpd PJ Stubbs (Henry's), N NGWENGA (Army) outpd C. Billam-Smith (Poole). **English titles:** **56:** C. KENNY (Hoddesdon) stpd D. Seymour (Bell Green) 2nd. **81:** R. ELLIS (Spennymoor) outpd U. Sadiq (Repton). **Female titles:** **57:** N. HUGHES (CSM) outpd R. Chapman (Arena). **75:** A. TRUBIT (Army) outpd L. Johnson (Wodensborough).

SIWA STRIKES

The Pole eliminates both Crystal Barker and Valerian Spicer from the Nations Cup

THE Nations Women's Cup took place in Ruma, Serbia from January 8-12.

England's **Crystal Barker** entered at 60kgs but lost her preliminary bout to Poland's **Kinga Siwa** by unanimous decision.

Valerian Spicer, from London but an Olympic hopeful

for Dominica, also competed at 60kgs. She outscored Belarus' **Alla Yarshevich** unanimously in her first contest in Serbia and in the quarter-final took a split decision victory over Morocco's **Hasna Lachgar**. But in the lightweight semi-final Siwa – who won silver – struck again, edging out Spicer on a split decision.

RESULTS

Elite finals: **48:** LISE SANDEBJER (Sweden) outpd Bina Devi Haobijam (India) unan. **51:** CHANG YUAN (China) outpd Sara Ourahmoune

(France) split. **54:** DELPHINE MANCINI (France) outpd Marielle Hansen (Norway) split. **57:** PWILAO BASUMATARY (India) outpd Manel Meharzi (Algeria) unan. **60:** AGNES ALEXIUSSON (Sweden) outpd Kinga Siwa (Pol) split. **64:** MILENA MATOVIC (Serbia) outpd Madina Nurshayeva (Kazakhstan) unan. **69:** DARIMA SANDAKOVA (Russia) outpd Hanna Solecka (Poland) unan. **75:** NOUCHKA FONTJIN (Netherlands) outpd Yuan Meiqing (China) unan. **81:** YULDUS MAMATKULOVA (Kazakhstan) outpd Meena Rani (India) split. **81&:** SEEMA PUNIA (India) outpd Elizaveta Sayushkina (Ukraine) unan.

KINGS OF THE RING

Hard work over Christmas pays off in Sweden for the Hoddesdon club

HODDESDON BOXING ACADEMY claimed an emphatic medal haul at the prestigious King of the Ring tournament, held in Borås, Sweden from January 8-10. A team of 19 boxers returned home with an outstanding 12 gold medals, five silver and two bronze.

The Burford Street club trained all over the Christmas period and the extra effort paid dividends as performances peaked before an impressive audience in a competition that was live-streamed across Europe.

Hoddesdon walked away with awards for Best Team, Best Contest, Best Senior Elite boxer and the coveted prize "The King of The Ring". That accolade went to current English belt-holder **Jordan Reynolds**. Experienced opponents **Ahmed Rossi** (Narva BK), **Amir Smensen** (Hisingens BK) and **Brian Rennie** (Bury ABC) all succumbed to the fast hands and outstanding workrate of Reynolds.



Another significant performance was that of **Ralph Ibrahim** who on the first evening defeated Worlds rep and current European bronze medalist **Clarence Goyeram** (IFK Gothenburg) in a barnstormer of a contest. This was also declared best contest of the tournament. Ralph outpointed **Adolphe Sylva** (Halmstad BS) and then in the final **Helge Engesland** (Grimstad BK). Ralph was declared Best Elite Boxer of the tournament.

Other eye-catching performances came from Elite boxers **Jordan Flynn** (60kgs) and **Kyran O'Neill** (56kgs) who were narrowly outpointed in their respective finals by quality opposition in **Yohanne Berhane** (IF Linnea) and former Olympian **Ronald Serugo** (IF Goteborgs). **Aadam Hussein** produced a sublime performance to outpoint Finnish opponent **Gokmen Gorgin** in the 50kgs Junior final.

"There were so many significant performances from our boxers that

to mention them would take up several pages. We trained throughout Christmas, twice daily and the fitness levels were evident in each and every performance," said Hoddesdon coach Sab Leo. "The Swedish Federation and its supporters made us feel extremely welcome."

FINALS RESULTS:

Junior: 50: ADAM HUSSEIN (England) outpd Gokmen Gorgin (Finland) unan. **54:** KIERAN CORMICAN (England) outpd Martin Skogheim (Norway) split. **57:** ANDREAS PALM (Sweden) w/o. **63:** DON EMINI (Norway) outpd Patrick Larkin (Wales) unan. **66:** PONTUS KARLSSON (Sweden) outpd John William Ball (England) split. **Youth: 52:** MASI JURVANEN (Finland) outpd MOHAMMAD DARVISHI (Sweden) unan. **56:** MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN WERSANEH (Finland) outpd Farris Khan (England) split. **60:** HASAN OMAR (Sweden) outpd Aiden Hampsey (Wales) unan. **64:** PAVLO GULA (Ukraine) outpd Amad Doski (Sweden) split. **75:** HARRIS AKBAR (England) outpd Albion Rexhaj (Norway) unan. **81:** SJAMSUDIN SJAMILOV (Norway) outpd Arkadiy Kartsan (Ukraine) split. **Elite: 52:** ALI REZAI (Sweden) outpd Faluk Hussain (England) unan. **56:** RONALD SERUGO (Sweden) outpd Kyran O'Neill (England) unan. **60:** YOHANNES BERNHANE (Sweden) outpd Jordan Flynn (England) split. **64:** ANGELO BERNHARD TORRES (Norway) outpd Sahir Iqbal (England) split. **69:** ABDUL IBRAHIM (England) outpd Helge Engesland (Norway) unan. **75:** JORDAN REYNOLDS (England) outpd Brian Rennie (England) unan. **81:** ABDESSLAM CHABI (Sweden) outpd Albin Albinsson (Sweden) unan. **91:** ARMINTAS DLUCKYYS (Norway) outpd Kevin Melhus (Norway) split. **918:** SIMEN NYSAETHER (Norway) outpd Wesley Hoejboege (Denmark) unan.

SPENNYMOOR IN FOCUS

The continuing success story of a fine unit in the North East



TWENTY-FIVE years ago when Robert Ellis formed Spennymoor Boxing Academy his ambition was to take the young people in the area off the streets, channel their youthful enthusiasm into a positive attitude and take it into the sport of amateur boxing.

Robert made two promises to himself. Firstly to build a team of boxers that the town could be proud of and secondly to take them around the world to places that most of them could only dream of. With his dedicated team of volunteer coaches, these promises have been kept.

The Academy has travelled all over the world and visited 19 countries

including New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the USA and the Far East in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur along with many European countries.

Their latest tour was to Canada last year in which their boxers competed in two tournaments in Vancouver and Toronto and along with all the fundraising efforts for such a monumental task, Robert went about looking for a full kit for the tour squad, which Avec Sports provided.

The next step then, with a grant from Living and the generosity of the club's main sponsors Workwear Express, Team 42 and George Bolam, now every boxer and coach at the club is fully equipped with the new tracksuits.

WITH ROBERT'S DEDICATED TEAM, THESE PROMISES HAVE BEEN KEPT

Photo: MANNY MILLAN/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED/GETTY IMAGES



HUNGRY:
Duran acclimatises
to the welterweight
division



ROBERTO READY

Duran calls
out champ
Sugar Ray,
writes
Daniel
Herbert

ROBERTO DURAN pronounced himself ready to take on WBC welterweight king Sugar Ray Leonard after stopping Norway-based Ugandan Josef Nsubuga in six rounds at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas.

"I want Leonard now and I'll knock him out," said the typically bullish Panamanian, who also said: "I'm the real world champ."

Duran had relinquished his world lightweight crown a year before, and had been accumulating experience at welter, before bidding for one of the two titles then available (WBC, WBA).

Nsubuga, a former star amateur having only his 13th pro fight, was billed as the "Ugandan Powerhouse" but proved more of a stylist than a puncher. We said he "put up an excellent fight" as he "jabbed,

countered and rallied with bursts of quick punches."

Yet late in round four Duran, looking "sharp and relentless", dropped Nsubuga with a smashing right to the jaw and although the African beat the count, he was retired by his corner during the interval. Six months later Duran would outpoint Leonard to become WBC champion.

BARRY BATTERS FOSTER

THE National Stadium in Dublin hosted a Dublin v Ulster amateur show, the highlight of which saw Barry McGuigan beat Richie Foster in a featherweight battle.

Foster, the reigning Irish bantam champion, landed hard lefts but McGuigan was "always in command and gave the Dubliner little rest, constantly putting him under intense pressure."

Richie took two standing counts, from a "blazing" right to the chin in round one and then from "another smashing right"

in round two. But he reached the final bell, where McGuigan was a unanimous points winner – despite suffering a bruised left hand in this bout (as revealed by an X-ray).

Barry went on to a fabulous pro career, and handles Carl Frampton.

The show was the first between Dublin and Ulster since 1955, with our report stating that "relations between the two sides are now happier after a long period when it seemed there would never be agreement."

McGOWAN PASSES

OUR back page was in those days used for a news round-up and 36 years ago it contained an obituary of Liverpool heavyweight Les McGowan, who had died from leukaemia at the shockingly young age of just 30.

As an amateur McGowan reached the 1972 ABA heavyweight final, only for Tim Wood to stop him in a big upset. The following year Les began a pro career that lasted only 15 months but saw him pack in 11 fights.

We called McGowan's time in

the paid ranks "short but exciting" and said that his March 1974 fight with future British champ John L. Gardner at the Royal Albert Hall was "one of the most exciting heavyweight clashes seen at the venue." Fortunes swayed constantly before Gardner prevailed in round five.

The Merseysider went on to beat Eddie Patterson, Sid Paddock and Hendon's Tony Moore, before retiring after back-to-back losses to Neville Meade and in a rematch with Moore. All in 1974.

TEN YEARS A CHAMPION



Alex Daley

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**Historian
& author**

HAMILTON'S John McCluskey was part of a group of talented '60s and '70s Scottish boxers whom fight fans of that era remember fondly. Also in that group were Ken Buchanan, Dick McTaggart, Evan Armstrong, John O'Brien, Sammy McSpadden, Bobby Mallon and McCluskey's boyhood pal Walter McGowan.

While as a pro McCluskey did

not hit the heights of world champions Buchanan and McGowan, he set his own unique record, which has never been equalled by another flyweight. He reigned as British champion for 10 consecutive years.

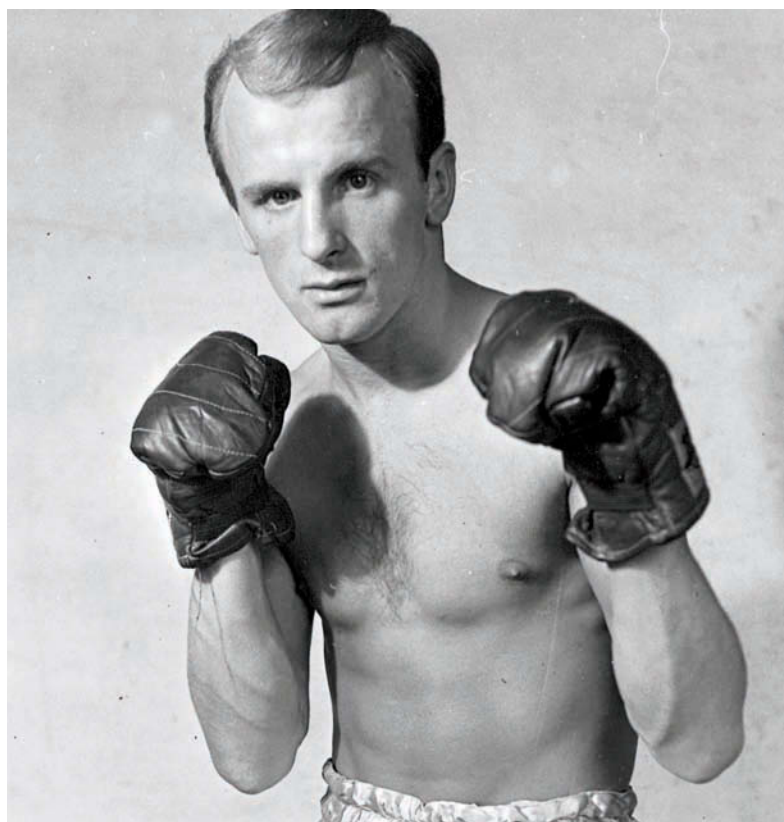
Born in Hamilton in January 1944, unlike his friend McGowan – who was the son of an ex-fighter – John had no boxing heritage to boast of. In fact, it was only through McGowan's encouragement that he visited Larkhall Amateur Boxing Club at age 16, to give the sport a go.

After watching him spar, club coach Dave Barry told McCluskey he was a natural, and the lad soon proved him right. John won the Scottish amateur flyweight title in 1963 and both that title and the ABA (now Elite national) crown in '64. An Olympic trial bout victory that summer earned him a place on the GB team at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

At the time John worked for a barber in Hamilton, who to his surprise refused to give him time off to compete at the Games. McCluskey resigned and went anyway, but returned home disappointed after being eliminated in the flyweight quarter-final. In 1965 he won the ABA flyweight title again, and then turned his ambitions to a paid career.

He sought the advice of fellow Scots fighter Dick Currie, who suggested he sign with London-based entrepreneur and boxing manager Jarvis Astaire, who had a track-record of producing champions.

McCluskey took that advice and in January 1967, in just his eighth pro fight, he won the vacant British flyweight title with an eighth-round KO of Manchester southpaw Tony Barlow at Belle Vue. This made him the third Scot in succession to hold the title, after Jackie Brown and Walter McGowan.



A NATURAL: McCluskey takes two ABA titles and reaches an Olympic quarter-final before his pro success

The late British and Commonwealth flyweight ruler John McCluskey was born this week in 1944

McCluskey would make the British flyweight crown his own property until he retired, but in that time – due to a scarcity of British flyweights – he made just two defences. Indeed, there were so few flyweights in Britain that McCluskey had to travel abroad for fights. This took him to Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, South Africa, Australia, Zambia and America.

Among John's key fights was a trilogy of losing battles against Italy's Fernando Atzori, which included a European flyweight title challenge. In April 1970 McCluskey challenged another Italian, Franco Zurlo, for the European bantam title, losing over 15.

In June 1970, McCluskey captured the vacant Commonwealth flyweight crown by beating Australia's Harry Hayes in Melbourne. He lost that title the following year, again in Melbourne, when stopped on a cut eye by Henry Nissen.

McCluskey retired in August 1977. He became a coach and was made honorary president of his local Hamilton Boxing Club.

As a modest man McCluskey shunned the limelight, but he was proud to be inducted into the Scottish Boxing Hall of Fame in 2006. A much-liked and respected president of the Scottish EBA, he died in July 2015, aged 71.

EX-BOXER ASSOCIATION NEWS

Kent EBA revival

KENT EBA, founded in 1968, was once a thriving organisation that awarded four trophies annually to encourage young boxers. Sadly, Harold Alderman MBE tells me there are now just four regular members, despite there being plenty of ex-boxers living in Kent.

Harold, a Kent EBA founder-member, writes: "I really would like to see many of the ex-boxers (amateur and pro) who reside in Kent – especially the Medway, north Kent and Thanet areas – rally round (like they did for St Mary's ABC in

Chatham) to help revive the Kent Ex-Boxers' Association.

"I don't mean people outside the county donating money, but people actually living in Kent and willing to attend meetings. But of course it needs an easy-to-get-to venue, near a railway station and with easy bus access."

To get involved please contact Harold on 07729 528115.

Email exboxers@gmail.com with your ex-boxer association news.

TOMMY MARTIN

Kal Sajad talks to a man who will battle his buddy next weekend

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JASON CAIRNDUFF

When and why you started boxing:

My brother had put on a lot of weight and my mum made him go to a boxing gym to lose some of it. I was about 14, and I went along to support him, and just fell in love with the sport. Before that, I'd been playing football for Fulham and then Peterborough United.

Favourite all-time fighter:

Mike Tyson. He's not in my weight class, but I loved his ferocity and hunger.

Best fight you've seen:

Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward II [a unanimous 10-round points victory for Gatti in November 2002].

Personal career highlight:

Winning the [vacant] English super-lightweight title [with a unanimous 10-session points success over Ricky Boylan in January 2015].

Toughest opponent:

Andy Harris [w pts 4 - March 2013]. It was only my third pro fight. I underestimated him and didn't box too well.

Best and worst attributes as a boxer:

My main strength is my left hand - I have a good left hook and brilliant jab. However, I sometimes let my heart rule my head.

Training tip:

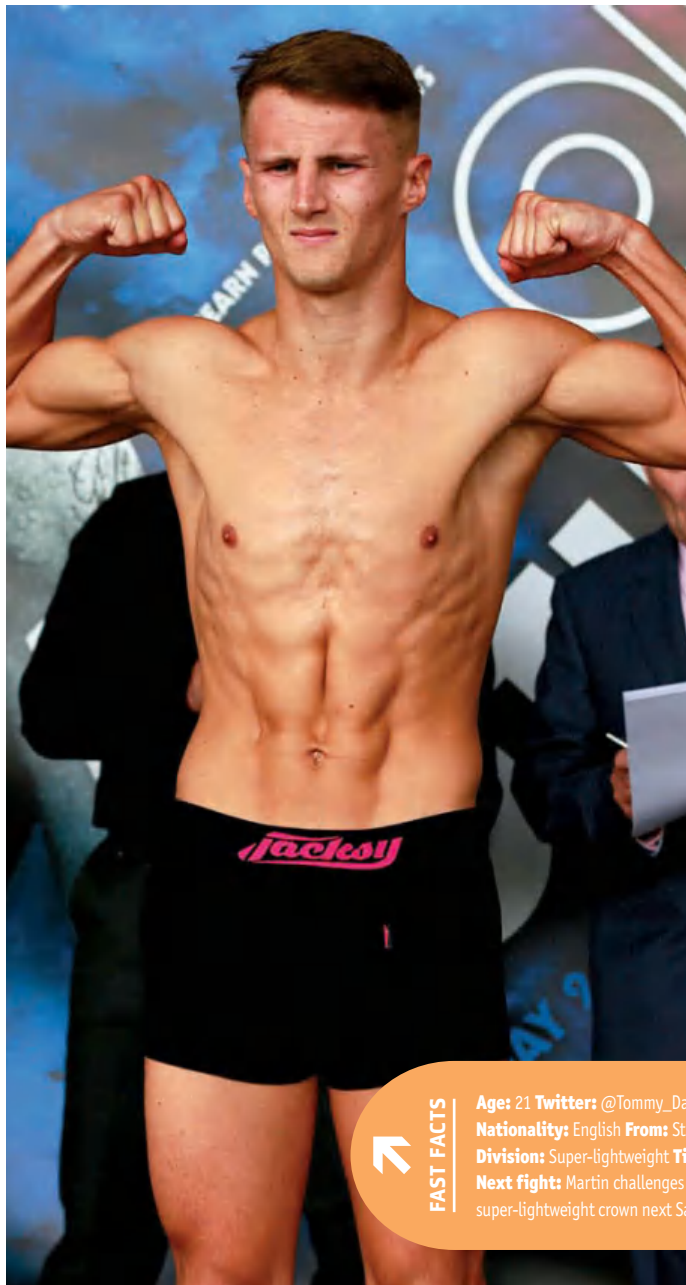
Stay dedicated, because you can't 'play' boxing. You have to live the sport.

Best friends in boxing:

John Wayne Hibbert. We formed a friendship from sparring, and now we're fighting each other this month!

Other sportsman you would like to be:

As I used to play football, I'll say Thierry Henry - pure class.



'I DON'T HIDE ANYTHING. I JUST LIVE FOR BOXING'

Last film/TV show you saw:

[Comedy movie] *Step Brothers*.

Have you ever been starstruck:

When I bumped into Amir Khan at a *Prizefighter* show when I was younger. Also, when I was really young, I met Matt Skelton and was blown away. I ended up boxing on the same bill as him years later [in Liverpool in July 2014].

Last time you cried:

When I won the English title. I'm not much of a crier, but I knew all the hard work had finally paid off.

Best advice received:

'Your right hand gets you around the country, your jab gets you around the world.' That came from [ex-WBO super-featherweight champion] Nicky Cook, when I was 16 and living in Tenerife.

Worst rumour about yourself:

It's not really a rumour, but I hate it when my opponents say at pre-fight press conferences, 'Ah he's just a baby, he's just a kid.'

Something not many people know about you:

There's nothing really. I don't hide anything at all. I just live for boxing.

FAST FACTS

Age: 21 **Twitter:** @Tommy_DaGun **Nickname:** 'Da Gun' **Height:** 5ft 8ins
Nationality: English **From:** St Neots **Stance:** Orthodox **Record:** 13-0 (5)
Division: Super-lightweight **Titles:** English & WBA Continental
Next fight: Martin challenges John Wayne Hibbert for the Commonwealth super-lightweight crown next Saturday (January 30) in Stratford.

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